



the church in the Square at the time of these minutes

#### Transcription of the Minutes of the Kirk Session of Old Cumnock Parish Church 1816-1860

The Church of Scotland is Presbyterian, run by the Presbytery unlike the Church of England which is run by Bishops and Archbishops.

The Kirk Session is the lowest court at parish level and consists of the Minister (as Moderator) and elected elders. At this time it was men only. The Session Clerk took the Minutes. He was often an elder too.

The Presbytery is the higher court at district level, here it is in Ayr.

The Synod (abolished in 1990) was at regional level and answered to the General Assembly at national level.

The Moderator of the Kirk Session was the Minister. He is not generally named in the minutes.

Ministers of Old Cumnock parish church and their years in office

Dr Thomas Miller DD 1767 - 1819

Mr John Frazer 1819-1829

Mr Ninian Bannatyne 1830-1843. He left the established church at the Disruption in 1843 and formed the Free Church.

Mr James Murray 1843 - 1875

Ref: <http://www.cumnockhistorygroup.org/people-clergy.html> by Robert Grierson

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Transcriptions for Cumnock History Group by  
Karl Alan Craig, Kay McMeekin, Yvonne Saunderson  
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## Glossary of Scots, legal, archaic and Latin terms

### LATIN

**apud acta** among the recorded facts; during the proceedings; done with

**bona fide** genuine

**in retentis** used of evidence taken on oath, before a case is heard, from persons who might be unable to attend the court

**inter se** between each other, together

**preses** president

**pro primo** for the first time

**pro secundo** for the second time (cf pro primo, pro tertio)

**pro tem (pro tempore or p.t.)** for the time being, used for those acting as a **locum**

**tenens** (placeholder) in the absence of another

**proximo** in or during the next month.

**pro tertio** for the third time

**post preces** after prayer

**sederunt** a sitting or session, followed by names of those present

**ult** last month

**et seq.** and the following

**ut supra** as above

**viz.** namely, as follows

### SCOTS and ENGLISH

**adduce** cite as evidence

**aliment** (Scots law) maintenance, support

**anent** (Scots) concerning

**Antiburgher** (Scots) A member of the group in the Secession Church in Scotland which separated in 1747 from the 'Burgher' group because it refused to take the civil 'Burgess Oath'. (c.f. "Burgher")

**antenuptial** before marriage

as in the sin of antenuptial fornication when the wife produces a child less than 9 months after the marriage

**behoof** (Old English) benefit or advantage

**bilapse** second occasion of committing an offence (cf **trilapse**, **quadrilapse** )

**compear** (Scots law) to appear in court personally or by attorney

**condescend** (Old Scots) to specify or detail

**contumacy** refusal to obey or comply with authority; disobedience to a court order or summons.

**delate** (in law) to bring a charge against, denounce or impeach

**depone** (Scots law) to give evidence as a witness

**diet** a meeting or session of a court

**ettle** (Scots) to plan

**farther** further (more common nowadays)

**flit** (Scots) to move house

**fourthnight**” archaic spelling of fortnight meaning two weeks, (cf se’ennight)

**guilt** sin

the guilt was contracted - the sin was committed

**lesser excommunication** suspension from receiving Holy Communion for ‘notorious evil livers’ and/or having wronged their neighbours without restitution.

**premeditatively** archaic adv. form of “premeditated” (i.e.planned before)

**quadrilapse** fourth relapse

**Secession (The)** The Secession Church or United Secession Church was a Scottish Presbyterian denomination formed in 1822 from the Anti-Burghers that refused to merge with the Church of Scotland

**se’ennight** (Old English) seven nights, or a week; usually “sennight” (c.f. “fortnight”).

**sist** (Scots law) to suspend a case

**trilapse** third relapse

**ultroneously** (in Law) voluntarily offering testimony without being cited

## Money

£ s d pounds shillings and pence 20 shillings in a pound 12 pennies in a shilling

6/8 six shillings 8 pence

a **guinea** £1/1/- (one pound, one shilling), half a guinea =10/6

**Old Cumnock Kirk Sessions – Scotland's People  
Minutes (1816-1860) (CH2/81/7)**

Minute Book  
of  
the Kirk Session  
of  
Cumnock

commencing in January

1816

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**Cumnock 12 January 1816**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders

Compeared ultroneously Jean Connel<sup>1</sup> acknowledging she had brought forth a Child in fornication on Tuesday the 19th December last and accusing David Wyllie<sup>2</sup> Mason in Auchinleck as the father of it. Says the guilt was committed the night of Cumnock Race last. Being suitably admonished she was cited apud acta to compear here again on Thursday next at 12 o'clock and as the accused did not appear the Session appoint their Clerk to write the Kirk Session of Auchinleck to cause him to be summoned to compear also at the above time.

Concluded with prayer

N.B. The Session having been informed that the above cause was carried before a court of Civil Law defer the farther prosecution of it till they hear the result.

*margin note  
Jean Connel appears for fornication*

.....  
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**Cumnock 4th February 1816**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders

When Agnes Downie summoned to this diet compeared and on interrogation acknowledged herself with Child in adultery by James McMillan Weaver in Cumnock

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<sup>1</sup> [Jean Connel](#)  
<sup>2</sup> [David Wyllie](#)

a married person and that the guilt was contracted a few days after the Cumnock Day Fair last.

She was exhorted to repentance and cited apud acta to compear before the Session in the school room on Thursday next. The Session order their Officer to summon the said James McMillan to compear along with her and adjourn till then.

*margin note*  
*Agnes Downie appears for Adultery*

Cited to appear again

**Cumnock 8th February 1816**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders

The session having met agreeably to adjournment Agnes Downie was called and compearing adhered to her former declaration. James McMillan was called but compeared not wherefore the session order their Officer to cite him again this day se'ennight and Agnes Downie was cited apud acta to compear along with him.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Cited to appear again*

.....  
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**Cumnock 15 February 1816**

Constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator & all the Elders

Agnes Downie again appeared adhering still to her former declaration. James McMillan was called but compeared not.

The Session delay the farther consideration of this affair for the time and conclude with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Agnes Downie appears again*  
*Her case delayed for some time*

**Cumnock 21 March 1816**

Constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders

Compeared voluntarily Janet Stewart in Ward confessing herself with Child in fornication by Thomas Campbell late in Little Burnockhead which charge he acknowledges by the contents of a paper produced. She was suitably admonished and dismissed for the time. Concluded with prayer

*margin note  
Janet Stewart appears for fornicn.*

**Cumnock 21st July 1816**

Constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders

Compeared voluntarily Duncan Robertson<sup>3</sup> and Ann Campbell his wife confessing themselves guilty of antinuptial fornication and craving to be restored to church privileges. The session having maturely considered the matter grant their request and they were accordingly rebuked, suitably admonished and having paid Six Shillings and Eight pence for behoof of the poor were absolved from the scandal. Concluded with prayer.

*margin note  
Duncan Robertson and Anne Campbell  
absolved from the scandal of antinl. fornication*

.....  
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**Cumnock 22 July 1816**

Constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders

Flora Ballantine came voluntarily before the Session confessing herself with Child in fornication by William McCartney son of Robert McCartney in Righead parish of New Cumnock. Says she had informed him of her situation and that he acknowledged the fact and she would produce to-morrow his acknowledgement signed by himself. Being suitably admonished she was dismissed for the time.

*margin note  
Flora Ballantine appears for fornication*

Compeared also ultraneously John Robb Servant to Wm. McCowan in Caponacre confessing himself the father of a child brought forth in fornication by Janet Smith servant to Mr. Bacon in Brownhill parish of Closeburn. He was exhorted to repentance and dismissed for the time. The Session appoint their Clerk to transmit this his confession to the session of Closeburn. Concluded with prayer

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<sup>3</sup> [Duncan Robertson](#)

*margin note*  
*John Robb appears for Fornication*

**Cumnock 8th September 1816**

This day by an appointment of the session agreeably to a request from the Clerk Session of Closeburn John Robb Servant in Caponacre appeared before the Congregation for the sin of fornication with Janet Smith Servant in Brownhill/

*margin note*  
*John Robb absolved*

.....  
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/ parish of Closeburn and mentioned in last Minute and was rebuked, exhorted to repentance fined Ten Shillings and Six pence to the poor and absolved from the scandal.

Same day the session met and constituted with prayer.  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders.

When James Mitchell and Abigail Patrick came ultraneously before the Session, confessing themselves guilty of fornication inter se, and craving to be taken on discipline, and restored to the privileges of the Church. The session having duly considered the same, granted their request, and they were therefore rebuked, suitably admonished, and, in consequence of their being thrice proclaimed to-day for Marriage and their alleviating circumstances, their fine was mitigated to Six Shillings and Eight pence for behoof of the poor, and they were absolved from the Scandal.  
Conclude with prayer

*margin note*  
*James Mitchell and Abigail Patrick absolved for fornication*

**Cumnock 3 Dec 1816**

Constituted with prayer

Sederunt, in absence of Doctor Miller, the Revd. Mr. Reid of New Cumnock and all the Elders

Compeared voluntarily Charles Cowen Jun. in Silverburn and Janet Crichton his wife confessing themselves guilty of antinuptial fornication and craving to be taken on discipline and restored for Church privileges. The Session having considered the same agree/

*margin note*  
*Chas. Cowan & Jant. Crichton absolved from antinl. fornication*

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/ agree to their request, wherefore they were rebuked, exhorted to repentance, and having paid Six Shillings and Eight pence to the poor, were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

### **Cumnock 2nd January 1817**

Constituted with prayer

Sederunt, in absence of Doctor Miller, the Revd. Mr. Reid of New Cumnock and all the Elders

When George Moore Watchmaker in Cumnock appeared voluntarily confessing himself guilty of antenuptial fornication with Susan Nichol his wife (who is a member of the burgher Society) and craving to be taken disciplined and restored to church privileges. The Session having maturely considered the same agree to his request and he was accordingly rebuked and admonished and having paid Ten shillings and Six pence of penalty to the poor was absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*

*Geo. Moore absolved from antinl. fornication*

Compeared also voluntarily for antenuptial fornication James Anderson and Jean Crichton his wife. At their request they were taken on Discipline and having paid Six Shillings and Eight pence of fine to the poor they were rebuked exhorted to repentance and absolved from the Scandal.

Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*

*Jas. Anderson & Jean Crichton absolved from antinl. fornn.*

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### **Cumnock 23rd January 1817**

Constituted with prayer

Sedt. (in absence of Doctor Miller), the Revd. Mr. Reid of New Cumnock & all the Elders

When David Wyllie Mason in Auchinleck appeared voluntarily confessing himself guilty of the sin of fornication with Jean Connell now deceased (See our Minute of the 12th January 1816) and craving to be taken on Discipline and restored to Church privileges. The Session considering the same agreed to his request and he was accordingly rebuked and suitably admonished and being fined in a Guinea to the poor was absolved from the scandal.

Closed with prayer

*margin note*

*David Wyllie absolved from fornication with Jean Connell*



### **Cumnock 13 March 1817**

Constituted with prayer

Sedt. (in absence of Doctor Miller), the Revd. Mr. Reid of New Cumnock & all the Elders

John Patrick<sup>4</sup> and Margaret Nichol his wife, in the Village, came voluntarily before the Session confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to the Church privileges. The Session after mature consideration agree to their request and they were rebuked, suitably admonished, and, being fined in Six Shillings & Eight pence for behoof of the poor were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

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### **Cumnock 8th May 1817**

Constituted with prayer

Sedt. (in absence of Doctor Miller), the Revd. Mr. Reid of New Cumnock & all the Elders

John Scott<sup>5</sup> in the village and Mary Haddow his wife came voluntarily before the Session confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to the privileges of the Church. The session after due deliberation agree to the request and they were accordingly rebuked suitably admonished and having paid Six Shillings and Eight pence for behoof of the poor were absolved from the scandal. Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*

*John Scott & Mary Haddow absolved from antinl. fornication*

### **Cumnock 15th June 1817**

Constituted with prayer

Sederunt the Moderator & all the Elders

Having considered the necessity of increasing their members in consequence of the death of some who had formally been of the Session they unanimously made choice of John Gibb<sup>6</sup> Cooper in Cumnock their Treasurer to be one of their number and authorize the Moderator after serving this edict this afternoon to proceed to his ordination as an Elder this day fourtnight being the 29th of this month.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*

*Election of an Elder*

.....  
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### **Cumnock 29th June 1817**

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<sup>4</sup> [John Patrick](#)

<sup>5</sup> [John Scott](#)

<sup>6</sup> [John Gibb cooper](#)

In conformity with the foregoing Minute John Gibb after answering the Questions usually put on such occasions was this day ordained to the office of an Elder

**Cumnock 3rd July 1817**

Constituted with prayer  
Sederunt the Moderator & all the Elders

When Hugh Hunter<sup>7</sup> Junior in Greenmiln compeared voluntarily confessing himself guilty of fornication with Margt. Craig & craving to be taken on discipline privately and restored to the privileges of the Church.

The Session having considered the same agree to his request and he was accordingly rebuked suitably admonished and having paid a Guinea for behoof of the poor was absolved from the scandal.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Hugh Hunter absolved from fornication*

**Cumnock 20th July 1817**

Constituted with prayer  
Sedt. the Moderator & all the Elders

Ann Black at Daleagles Burn came voluntarily before the session confessing herself with Child in fornication by George McCowan<sup>8</sup> Weaver in Cumnock at the same time producing a letter from him acknowledging his guilt.

The Session after mature deliberation agreed to take her on discipline and she was accordingly exhorted and ordered to wait upon the Session next Lord's day.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Ann Black appears for fornication*

.....  
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**Cumnock 27th July 1817**

Constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator & W. Galbraith & John Gibb Elders

Ann Black as mentioned in our last minute appeared before the Session. Also appeared voluntarily the before designed Geo. McCowan Weaver in Cumnock who acquiesces in the accusation before regarded. At their request they were rebuked suitably admonished and in consequence of their straitened circumstances having paid the mitigated penalty of half a Guinea to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*

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<sup>7</sup> [Hugh Hunter junior](#)

<sup>8</sup> [George McCowan weaver](#)

*Ann Black & George McCowan absolved from fornication*

**Cumnock 21st September 1817**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders

When Flora Ballantine<sup>9</sup> at Clocklouny<sup>10</sup> appeared voluntarily for the sin of fornication with William McCartney in Righead parish of New Cumnock and at her own request was rebuked suitably admonished and being fined in 6/8d to the poor was absolved from the scandal. Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Flora Ballantine absolved from fornication*

**Cumnock 5<sup>th</sup> October 1817**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders

Compeared voluntarily James Hunter<sup>11</sup> in Greenmiln and Helen Graham<sup>12</sup> in Longhouse confessing themselves guilty of fornication and craving to be taken on discipline & restored to the privileges of the church. They were accordingly /

*margin note*  
*James Hunter and Helen Graham absolved from fornication*

.....  
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/ rebuked and suitably admonished, and having paid a Guinea to the poor were absolved from their scandal.

Concluded with prayer

**Cumnock 20<sup>th</sup> October 1817**

Constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator, William Galbraith & John Gibb Elders

Compeared voluntarily Charles Wilson and Jane Bone his wife confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to church privileges. The Session on due consideration agree to their request & they were accordingly rebuked suitably admonished and having paid half a Guinea to the poor were absolved from the scandal. Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Chas. Wilson & Jean Bone absolved from antel. fornn.*

**Cumnock 9th November 1817**

Constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator, Wm. Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

Compeared voluntarily by James Johnston<sup>13</sup> and Anne Key confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to the privileges of the Church. The session after mature consideration to their request and they were

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<sup>9</sup> [Flora Ballantine](#)

<sup>10</sup> Clockclownie

<sup>11</sup> [James Hunter](#)

<sup>12</sup> Baptism of son James Hunter has the mother as **Mary** Graham in Longhouse

<sup>13</sup> [James Johnston](#)

accordingly rebuked suitably admonished and having paid 6/8 to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Jas. Johnston & Ann Key absolved from antel. fornicn.*

.....  
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**Cumnock 23 April 1818**

Constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator. and all the Elders

When Jean McGlashan<sup>14</sup> in the Village appeared voluntarily confessing she had brought forth a Child in fornication and accusing Hilbert Van Cooten lately in Cumnock now a Medical Student in Glasgow as the father of it from whom a letter of acknowledgement to the session was produced. The Session having considered the same agree to take her on discipline according to her request and she was therefore rebuked admonished to repentance and having paid a Guinea to the poor was absolved from the scandal.

The Session also elect John Gibb one of their number as their Presbytery and Synod Elder for the current half year.

Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Gene McGlashan absolved from fornication*  
*John Gibb elected Pres. & Synod Elder*

**Cumnock 26th April 1818**

Constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, Wm. Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

Compeared voluntarily Mary Latta in the village confessing she had brought forth a Child in fornication to David Johnston some years ago and craving to be restored to Church privileges. This being a relapse the session order her to appear before them again this day is se'ennight and after being reviewed and suitably admonished she was dismissed for the time – Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Mary Latta appears for fornicn.*

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**Cumnock 3rd May 1818**

Constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator & all the Elders

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<sup>14</sup> [Jean McGlashan](#)

When Mary Latta according to appointment in our last Minute made her appearance and after being rebuked and suitably admonished was absolved from her scandal of fornication with David Johnston.

The Session in consideration of her indigent circumstances remitted the half of her fine to the poor and exacted only half a Guinea. Thereafter she confessed she had brought forth in fornication a Child to Hugh Campbell in the parish of New Cumnock and craves to be purged from the scandal. Meantime (this case belonging to New Cumnock) the Moderator reports that the Revd. Mr. Reid Minister of New Cumnock had requested him to take her on discipline here. In consequence of which the Session order her as this was a trilapse to appear two times before the congregation and to make her first appearance on Sabbath next. Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Mary Latta appears for fornic.*

### **Cumnock 24 May 1818**

Mary Latta mentioned in our last Minute appeared before the Congregation this day fournight and to-day according to appointment and being reviewed and suitably admonished was absolved of the scandal.

*margin note*  
*Mary Latta absolved*

.....  
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### **Cumnock 24 May 1818**

Constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator Wm. Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

Where Margaret Baird in Watston came voluntarily before the session confessing herself with Child in fornication by John Richmond Mason in Cumnock. She was rebuked & admonished and being cited apud acta to appear before the Session the 28th June next was dismissed for the time. The session order their officer to cite the said John Richmond before them also at the above date.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Margt. Baird appears for Fornicn.*

### **Cumnock 4th June 1818**

Constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator John Baird and John Gibb Elders

Finding it expedient to increase their number the session unanimously make a choice of John Weir in Auchengibbert for an Elder and appoint his Edict to be served on Sabbath First and he is ordination to take place that day three weeks being the 28th current.

Concluded w. prayer

*margin note*  
*Elder elected*

**Cumnock 4th June 1818**

This day John Weir in Auchengibbert was ordained an Elder in terms of last Minute his Edict having been duly served as there stated and no objections offered.

*margin note  
John Weir ordained an Elder*

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**Cumnock 28th June 1818**

Constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator Wm. Galbraith John Gibb and John Weir Elders

Compeared Margaret Baird as mentioned in our minute of the 24th May last producing a letter from John Richmond where he acknowledges himself the father of the Child of which she is pregnant.

Compeared also voluntarily Jean Wilson Mantua Maker in the Village confessing herself with Child in fornication by James Ferguson in Auchinleck & at the same time producing a line from him in acknowledgement of his guilt.

At their request the said Margaret Baird and Jean Wilson were taken on discipline and having paid a Guinea each for behoof of the poor they were rebuked suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note  
Margt. Baird and Jean Wilson  
appear for fornication and are absolved*

**Cumnock 16th August 1818**

Constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator & all the Elders

When David Stewart in the Ward appeared voluntarily confessing himself guilty of Fornication about Nine years ago and of Antenuptial Fornication with his wife Jean Sharp for which he craved to be taken on Discipline and restored to church privileges. The session agree to his request and he was accordingly rebuked suitably admonished and having paid a Guinea for behoof of the poor was absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note  
David Stewart absolved from fornication*

.....  
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**Cumnock 6 September 1818**

Constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator & all the Elders

When James Fergusson appeared voluntarily professing his sorrow for the sin of fornication with Gene Wilson as stated in our minute of 28 June last and producing a certificate of his character from Auchinleck craves to be taken on Discipline as they have no minister at present in that parish. The Session agreed to the same and he was accordingly rebuked suitably admonished and after paying half a Guinea to the poor was absolved from the scandal – concluded w. prayer

*margin note*  
*Jas. Fergusson absolved from fornication*

**Cumnock 30th November 1818**

Constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator Wm. Galbraith John Gibb and John Weir Elders

Compeared voluntarily Margaret Sillers servant in Knockterrow confessing herself with Child in fornication by [William Shankland](#)<sup>15</sup> in Knockterrow from whom she produced a line acknowledging her accusation to be just. She was reviewed and ordered to appear before the Session next Lord's day to be absolved.  
Concluded with prayer

.....  
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**Cumnock 6th December 1818**

Constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator Willm. Galbraith John Gibb & John Weir Elders

When Margaret Sillers as mentioned in our last minute compeared along with William Shankland confessing themselves guilty of fornication as is therein stated and craving to be taken on Discipline. The session agreeing to the request they were rebuked suitably admonished and having paid a Guinea to the poor were absolved from the scandal – Concluded w. prayer

*margin note*  
*Margt. Sillers & Wm. Shankland absolved from Fornicn.*

Cumnock 1st February 1819

Constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator & all Elders

David Johnston parish of New Cumnock came voluntarily before the Session confessing himself to have been guilty of Fornication with Mary Latta in this village (See our Minute of the 26th April last) some years ago and craving to be taken on Church Discipline. Having produced a letter from the Revd. Mr Reid in behalf of his request the Session agree to the same and he was accordingly rebuked suitably admonished and having paid a fine for the poor Mitigated on Mr. Reid's recommendation to half a Guinea he was absolved from the scandal.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*David Johnston absolved from scandal of Fornication with Mary Latta*

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<sup>15</sup> [William Shankland](#)

**Cumnock 13 May 1819**

Session constituted with prayer  
present the Moderator & all the Elders but William Galbraith

Compeared voluntarily Margaret Crichton at Lochnorris Gatehouse confessing she had two years & a half ago brought forth a Child in Fornication with Michael Wilson Weaver in Ayr and craving to be purchased of the scandal. Having produced a written acknowledgement from the said Michael Wilson the Session agree to her request and on account of her straitened circumstances her find to the poor was mitigated to 6/. She was therefore rebuked suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Margaret Crichton rebuked & absolved for Fornication*

**Cumnock 30th July 1819**

Session constituted with prayer  
Sedt. the Moderator & all the Elders but John Baird

Compeared voluntarily [William White](#) Stocking Maker in Cumnock professing contrition for his past conduct and humbly craving to be freed from the sentence of Lesser Excommunication which was pronounced upon him the 6th day of May 1804 for a trilapse in Adultery with Thomas Murray's wife Jean Kennedy some years ago deceased. The Session having considered the same resolved to lay the case before the Presbytery of Ayr for their instruction at their Meeting on 4th of August next. After a suitable admonition he was ordered to wait /

*margin note*  
*William White appears to have the sentence of the Lesser Excommun. removed*

/ upon the Session as soon as the instruction of the Presbytery was known of which he would receive previous notice.  
Concluded with prayer

**Cumnock 1st August 1819**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator & all the Elders

In consequence of Notice (not a Summons) from the Officer compeared William White as mentioned in our Minute of the 30 July last who in conformity to the sentence of Presbytery was rebuked and cited apud acta for a period before the Presbytery at their next meeting on the first Wednesday of October.



*margin note*  
*Willm. White cited to the Presbytery*

The Moderator produced a letter from [George Muir](#), who had been duly summoned by the Officer, praying the Session to delay far their proceeding with him for a little until the result of his case was known which was presently before the civil Court. He was called but compeared not. The Session order him to be summoned a second time this day fourtnight and Agnes Stewart having /

*margin note*  
*Geo. Muir to be cited pro secundo.*  
*Agnes Stewart also cited apud acta*

.....  
Page 22

/ appeared was cited again apud acta to confront him. Concluded with prayer.

**Cumnock 22 August 1819**

Sess. constit. with prayer  
Present the Moderator & all the Elders.

When appeared [Agnes Stuart](#) compeared and the Officer having reported that he duly served a written summons on Geo. Muir he was called but compeared not but as formally sent a Letter requesting to postpone for a time the farther prosecution of this matter with regard to him until a decision should be given upon it at the Court of Session where it was at present depending. The Session order Agnes Stuart to appear again before them next Lord's day and their Officer to cite George Muir pro tertio to the same diet – Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Agnes Stuart & George Muir*  
*summoned to the Session pro tertio*

**Cumnock 29th August 1819**

Session const. with prayer  
Present the Moderator & all the Elders.

When Agnes Stewart again appeared, but George Muir who was personally summoned appeared not. The Session require her to produce what evidence she has of his guilt the first opportunity and till then delay the farther consideration of the matter.  
Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Agnes Stuart appears but Geo. Muir does not*

**Cumnock 10th October 1819**

Session const. with prayer  
Present the Moderator & all the Elders.

When a Minute of the presbytery of Ayr was produced by the Moderator empowering /

.....  
Page 23

/ the Session to take on Discipline & absolve Willm. White from the Sentence of the Lesser Excommunication as in our Minute of the 30th of July last. William White being in waiting was called & compeared. He was rebuked suitably and admonished and cited apud acta to appear again before the Session this day fourthnight. Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Presbytery order Wm.White to be taken on Discipline*  
*White appears Cited again apud acta*

### **Cumnock 10th October 1819**

Session const. with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders.

William White appeared was rebuked, suitably admonished, and having paid a Guinea to the Poor, was absolved from the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication and restored to Church privileges. And the Session appoint the same to be intimated to the Congregation from the Pulpit next Lord's day – Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
Willm. White appears & is absolved

### **Cumnock 31st October 1819**

This day intimation of William White's absolution was made to the Congregation in terms of the above Minute.

### **Cumnock 29th November 1819**

Session const. with prayer  
Present the Mod. and all the Elders but John Baird

Elizabeth McCartney<sup>16</sup> appeared voluntarily confessing herself to have brought forth a Child in Fornication to George Nielson and producing a line from him acknowledging him self as the father in terms of the accusation. She was rebuked and ordered to appear before the Session next Lord's day. Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Elizabeth McCartney appears for fornication*  
*cited to appear next Lord's day*

.....  
Page 24

### **Cumnock 12th December 1819**

Session const. with prayer  
Present the Mod. and all the Elders

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<sup>16</sup> [Elizabeth McCartney](#)

When Elizabeth McCartney agreeably to our last Minute compeared and having paid a Guinea to the poor was rebuked and absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*  
*Eliza. McCartney absolved*

Also compeared spontaneously Adam Samson<sup>17</sup> and Janet Stewart confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication who at their request were rebuked suitably admonished  
And having paid 6/8 to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*  
*Adam Samson and Janet Stuart absolved from antenuptial fornication*

Also John Richmond appeared voluntarily requesting to be freed from the scandal of Fornication with Margaret Baird (See our Minute of the 24 May 1818).

The session agreed to the same and he was accordingly rebuked exhorted to repentance and absolved from the scandal after having paid a Guinea to the poor.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*

John Richmond appears for fornication

### **Cumnock 16 January 1820**

Session const. with prayer

Present the Mod. and all the Elders

Compeared Janet Boyd in Skerrington of her own accord and James Gaw, Servant in Bowes in consequence of citation. Janet Boyd confesses herself with Child in Fornication and delates the above James Gaw as the father which he in the most positive manner denies declaring he never had any carnal conversation with her.

The Session cite them both apud acta to compear before them in the Schoolhouse on the 31st current and dismissed them for the time.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Janet Boyd accuses Jas. Gaw of fornication with her*  
*They are both cited apud acta before the Session*

.....  
Page 25

### **Cumnock 31st January 1820**

Sess. const. with prayer

Present the Moderator and all the Elders

Compeared Janet Boyd adhering to her former accusation. James Gaw was called but compeared not. The Session order him to be cited again before them the 6th day of February next and Janet Boyd to compear along with him.

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<sup>17</sup> [Adam Samson](#)

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Jat. Boyd but not Jas. Gaw*  
*They are both cited again*

**Cumnock 6th February 1820**

Sess. const. with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders

Compeared Janet Boyd still adhering to her former accusation of James Gaw who also compeared persisting in his denial. The Session delay farther consideration of the matter for the present till time may throw more light on it.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Jat. Boyd & Jas. Gaw's case adjourned for a time*

**Cumnock 19th March 1820**

Session const. with prayers  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders

Compeared voluntarily Elisabeth Carruthers presently serving in the Dumfries Arms Inn here but lately from the parish of Kirkconnell who produced an Extract of Minutes from the Kirk Session there importing that she had appeared and confessed herself guilty of Fornication with a James Kerr who had acknowledged the charge and the said Minutes also allowed her to be taken on Discipline here by reason of her distance from Kirkconnell. She was taken on Discipline according to her own request and having paid half a Guinea to the poor was rebuked suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Elisa. Carruthers appears for fornication*  
*She is absolved*

.....  
Page 26

**Cumnock 6 August 1820**

Session const. with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders

Compeared voluntarily William Anderson<sup>18</sup> and Sarah Kirkland for antenuptial Fornication and being taken on discipline at their request, after a suitable admonition and paying 6/8 to the poor they were absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*  
*Willm. Anderson and Sarah Kirkland*  
*rebuked & absolved from antenuptial Fornication*

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<sup>18</sup> [William Anderson](#)

Compeared also voluntarily Margaret McMiken from Dalmellington confessing sorrow for her sin of Fornication with John Samson (See Minute of 16 Decemr. 1810), and craving to be restored to Church privileges. The Session agreeing thereto she was rebuked, suitably admonished and having paid 5/ to the poor was absolved –  
Concluded with prayers

*margin note*  
*Margt. McMiken rebuked for Fornication and absolved*

### **Cumnock 18th August 1820**

Session const. with prayer

Present the Moderator & all the Elders but John Baird

James Shankland<sup>19</sup> in Dykes appeared before the Session for having gone to the Smithy at Whitesmuir on the Sacramental last day and gotten two horses shod by the Apprentice of James Inglis there who is an Antiburgher. He declares it was done through ignorance as he had forgotten the day of the week and professes sorrow for it requesting to be restored to Church privileges from which he had for a time being debarred. The Session charitably hoping he did it unwittingly as he says agree to his request and being exhorted to be more circumspect in future he was restored again to be a Member of the Church.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*James Shankland appears for working on the last day before the Sacrament.*

.....  
Page 27

### **Cumnock 10th September 1820**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator and all the Elders but J. Baird

Compeared voluntarily Robert Broadfoot and Grizzel Russell Spouses in this Town for antenuptial Fornication and thereafter John Robertson for Fornication with Elisabeth Torrance craving to be restored to Church privileges. The Session agree to their request and they were accordingly rebuked suitably admonished and absolved. Robert Broadfoot having paid the usual penalty of 6/8 to the poor and John Robertson by reason of straitened circumstances the mitigated penalty of 6/8 also.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Robt. Broadfoot Griz. Russel appear for antenuptial Fornication & John Robertson for Fornication*  
*They were absolved*

### **Cumnock 29th September 1820**

Sess. const. with prayers

Present the Moderator Willm. Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

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<sup>19</sup> [James Shankland](#)

Compeared voluntarily James Robb, Wright Garallan Smithy and Jean Key late Servant in Garallan confessing themselves guilty of Fornication and craving to be restored to the Church privileges. The Session agree to their request and they were accordingly rebuked, suitably admonished and having paid a Guinea to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayers

*margin note*  
*Jas. Robb & Jean Key appear for Fornication*  
*They are absolved*

.....  
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**Cumnock 5th November 1820**

Session const. with prayer

Present the Moderator & all the Elders

When they unanimously elect John Weir one of their number for their Elder to attend the Presbytery & Synod for the current half year. Concluded with prayer

margin note

Presbytery & Synod Elder elected

**Cumnock 12th November 1820**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator & all the Elders but John Baird

John Hunter & Margaret Linton as also Hugh Goldie and Margaret Murdoch came voluntarily before the Session confessing themselves guilty of Antenuptial fornication. At their request they were taken on Discipline and being suitably admonished and having each pair paid 6/8 to the poor they were absolved from the scandal. Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*John Hunter & Margt. Linton Hugh Goldie & Margt. Murdoch results from antenl.*  
*fornn.*

**17th December 1820**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator and all the Elders.

Compeared Mary Graham acknowledging that she had brought forth a child in fornication, and accusing Hugh Thomson residing in the Village of Cumnock as the father. Hugh Thomson was ordered to appear before the Session on the 31st. December.

*margin note*  
*Mary Graham appeared for fornication.*

Compeared also Jean Graham acknowledging that she had brought forth a stillborn child in fornication and accusing Hugh Campbell residing in the village as the father. Hugh Campbell was ordered to appear before the Session on the 31st. Dec.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Jean Graham appeared for fornication.*

.....

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**31st December 1820**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator and all the Elders –

Compeared Hugh Thomson, who confessed that he was guilty of fornication with Mary Graham, and was the father of her child. Mary Graham was also present. They were both suitably exhorted and dismissed for the present.

*margin note*

Hugh Thomson confesses he was guilty of fornication with Mary Graham.

The Moderator produced a letter which he received from Hugh Campbell, acknowledging that he was guilty of fornication with Jean Graham. He craved that some time might elapse before he should be directed to appear in person. Jean Graham being present was exhorted and dismissed till ordered to attend again.

*margin note*

Hugh Campbell acknowledges he was guilty of fornication with Jean Graham.

Compeared Thomas Wilson<sup>20</sup> & Marion McLanachan confessing that they were guilty of antenuptial fornication. At their request they were taken on discipline, and being suitably admonished, and having paid 6/8 to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*  
*Thomas Wilson & Marion McLannachan*  
*absolved from antenuptial fornication*

The Session taking into consideration that James Campbell their Clerk was guilty of the Crime of antenuptial fornication, and wishing to mark their disapprobation of his conduct in that respect, agreed to suspend him

*margin note*  
*James Campbell suspended*  
*from his office of Session Clerk for three months.*

.....  
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/ from his office for three months. They appointed John Gibb to act as Clerk in the mean time.

Concluded with prayer.

**21 January 1821**

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<sup>20</sup> [Thomas Wilson](#)

Appeared before the Session, the Moderator and all the Elders present, Janet Duff confessing that she had brought forth a child in fornication, and charging George Morrison residing in the parish of New Cumnock with being the father. George Morrison voluntarily came before the Session and acknowledged his guilt. They both craved to be restored to Church privileges. The Session agreed to their request. They were accordingly rebuked, suitably admonished, and having paid a Guinea to the poor were absolved from the Scandal.

*margin note*  
*Geo. Morrison & Janet Duff appear for fornication*  
*They are absolved*

Compeared James Campbell<sup>21</sup> Schoolmaster of this Parish, and Jean Stoddart for antenuptial fornication; and being at their own request taken on discipline, after a suitable admonition and paying [unfilled space] absolved from the scandal.  
Session closed with prayer

*margin note*  
*James Campbell & Jean Stoddart*  
*rebuked for antenuptial fornication & absolved*

### **1 April 1821**

The Session this day unanimously agreed to restore James Campbell to his office of Session Clerk.

*margin note*  
*James Campbell restored to his office of Session Clerk.*

.....  
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### **Cumnock 6th May 1821**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders

The Session unanimously elect John Gibb one of their number as their Elder to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the current half year.  
Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Presbytery and Synod Elder elected*

### **Cumnock 28th May 1821**

Session const. with prayer  
Present the Moderator John Gibb and John Weir Elders

When John McIlveen<sup>22</sup> and Sarah McSkimming compeared voluntarily for antenuptial fornication. They were rebuked suitably admonished and having paid 6/8 to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*  
John McIlveen and Sarah McSkimming rebuked for antl. forn. & absolved

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<sup>21</sup> [James Campbell](#)

<sup>22</sup> [John McIlveen](#) and Sarah McSkimming



Also compeared voluntarily George Hood Servant in Knockterrow and Janet Welsh confessing themselves guilty of Fornication and craving to be restored to Church privileges. The Session agree to their request and they were accordingly rebuked exhorted to repentance and ordered to wait on the Session next Lords day.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*

*Geo. Hood and Janet Welsh rebuked for Fornication*

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**Cumnock 3rd June 1821**

Session const. with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders.

George Hood and Janet Welsh compear according to appointment and were rebuked suitably admonished and having paid a Guinea to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*

George Hood & Janet Welsh absolved

**Cumnock 17th June 1821**

Session const. with prayer  
Present the Moderator & all the Elders.

Compeared voluntarily John Kennedy and Sarah Hair in Cumnock confessing themselves guilty of fornication and craving to be restored to the privileges of the Church. The Session agreeing to the request they were rebuked suitably admonished and ordered to wait again on the Session to be absolved.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*

*John Kennedy & Sarah*

*Hair rebuked for Fornication*

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[Minute for 26th August 1821 out of place – it was inserted immediately following the minute of 9th December 1821]

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**Cumnock 2nd September 1821**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator & all the Elders.

Elisabeth Torrance<sup>23</sup> came voluntarily before the Session confessing herself to have been guilty of fornication sometime ago with John Robertson who is now her Husband. She was rebuked and admonished and ordered to wait on the Session on the 16th Current. Concluded with prayers

*margin note*

*Elisabeth Torrance appears for Fornication*

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<sup>23</sup> [Elizabeth Torrance](#)

**Cumnock 16th September 1821**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator & all the Elders

Elisabeth Torrance compeared who was rebuked, admonished, and absolved from the scandal of her first sin of fornication and was ordered to wait on the Session along with her husband on 1 October next for the sin of antenuptial Fornication.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note  
Elisa. Torrance absolved*

**Cumnock 1st October 1821**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator, Willm. Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

Compeared John Robertson and Elisabeth Torrance for antenuptial Fornication. At their request they were taken on discipline, and being reviewed at admonished, having paid 6/8 to the poor they were absolved from the scandal.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note  
John Robertson and Elisa. Torrance  
reviewed for antenupl. Fornn. and absolved*

**Cumnock 21st October 1821**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present The Revd. John Lindsay Minister of Ochiltree (in absence of Mr. Frazer)  
John Baird, John Weir and John Gibb Elders.

Compeared Hugh Thomson & Mary Graham as mentioned in our Minute of the 31st December 1820. They were rebuked and admonished and having paid half a Guinea to the poor were absolved.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note  
Hugh Thomson & Mary Graham appear for Fornication and are absolved*

**Cumnock 4th November 1821**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Revd. Mr. Montgomery, Minister of Sanquhar (in absence of Mr. Frazer),  
William Galbraith, John Gibb & John Weir Elders

The Session unanimously elected William Galbraith as their Elder to attend the Presbytery & Synod for the current half year.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note  
Presby. & Synod Elder elected*

Constituted with prayer  
On the Mod. & all the Elders  
**9th December 1821**

Compeared John Kennedy and Sarah Hair for Fornication (See our minute of the 17th June last). They were reviewed suitably admonished and having paid half a Guinea to the poor were absolved from the scandal.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*John Kennedy and Sarah Hair absolved*

(Omitted the following minute in its proper place)

Cumnock 26th August 1821  
Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders

When Agnes Stewart wife of James Boyd came voluntarily before the session (second minute of 29 August 1819) adhering to her former accusation of George Moor[e] Watchmaker in Cumnock and produced a Letter from him of which the following is a copy

*margin note*  
*Agnes Stewart appears for adultery with Geo. Moore*

“Cumnock 13 Oct. 1817

“Maddam

“I Hear By Acknowledge that I am the father of your Sone Called Robert<sup>24</sup> who was Born 2 Current & Do afirm that I Shall Do Everything in /

*margin note*  
*Geo Moore’s Letter to her*

.....  
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/ “my Pour to keep and maintain it and Shall pay five Sillans per Week for the first year and after that to Pay Such a Sum as Shall Be needed for Every year After till it be fit for itself not Exceding three Shillance and Six pence Per week and also give it Education and will gave it necearce Clothes which I Bind mySelf to perform Geo. Moore

“to Agnes Stewart

“Cumnock”

George Moore by intimation from the Session also compeared and having been asked what he had to say to the accusation of Agnes Stewart he positively denies the charge. The above letter being afterwards read in his hearing and shewn him, he was asked if that was his letter. He acknowledged it but says it had been extorted from him by force, Mr. Boyd & his wife having compelled him to grant it. The Session

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<sup>24</sup> [Robert](#)

agree to refer the matter for advice to the Presbytery of Ayr at their meeting in September next and allow the parties to bring forward what documents or evidence they may have in their favour and dismiss them for the present.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Geo. Moore appears*

### **Cumnock 6th January 1822**

Session constituted with prayer

On the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Weir, & John Gibb Elders

The Session having received advice from the Presbytery of Ayr to proceed against George/

.....  
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/ Moore Watchmaker in Cumnock and Agnes Stewart wife of Mr. James Boyd merchant there as guilty of adultery and their own confessions the parties were called in, the one persisting in her accusation, & the other in his denial, and cited apud acta to compear before the Revd. the Presbytery of Ayr the last Wednesday of this month.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Geo. Moore & Agnes Stewart*  
*cited to Presby. for Adultery*

### **Cumnock 10th February 1822**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, John Baird, John Weir, & John Gibb Elders

Compeared voluntarily James Rammage<sup>25</sup> and Jane Drummond for antenuptial Fornication. At their request they were taken on discipline and were rebuked suitably admonished and having paid Six Shillings and Eight pence to the poor they were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Jas. Rammage & Jane Drummond*  
*rebuked and absolved for antel. fornn.*

The Presbytery at the instance of the Kirk Session of Newton upon Ayr, having at their meeting of the 28th Novem. last, appointed the said Kirk Session to lay Quintin Campbell, lately residing in this village, under the Sentence of the Lesser Excommunication for contumacy, and this sentence to be intimated from the pulpit here, intimation to that effect was accordingly made in proper form to the congregation after divine Service on the evening of the 10th Feby. 1822.

*margin note*  
*Quintin Campbell excommunication intimated*

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<sup>25</sup> [James Rammage](#)

.....  
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**Cumnock 24th February 1822**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

Compeared voluntarily James Weir<sup>26</sup> and Helen Mitchell in Holmhead confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to Church privileges. The Session agree with their request and they were accordingly rebuked suitably admonished and having paid Six Shillings and Eight Pence to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*

*James Weir & Helen Mitchell rebuked for antenuptial Fornication and absolved*

**Cumnock 24th February 1822**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith, and John Gibb, Elders.

Compeared by citation William Campbell in Cumnock, and Margaret Richmond in Woodhead, for Fornication inter se; and Hugh Campbell in Cumnock, and Jean Graham in Blackshill, also for fornication inter se. (see Minute of 31 December 1820). They were rebuked, exhorted to repentance, fined, each paid in half a Guinea to the poor, and were all absolved from the scandal, except Margaret Richmond; who, on account of residing in a very disorderly house, and of other improper behaviour, was ordered to wait upon the Session at some future period, after she shall have exhibited proofs of a more correct conduct.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*

*Wm. & Hugh Campbell brothers<sup>27</sup>, & Margaret Richmond & Jean Graham appear & are rebuked for fornication*

—  
The two Campbells & Jean Graham are absolved

—  
Margt. Richmond to make another appearance  
.....

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**Cumnock 17th March 1822**

Session Const. with prayer

Present the Moderator and all the Elders

Compeared voluntarily John Mitchell<sup>28</sup> in Barlonahan confessing himself to have been guilty of Fornication with Anniple McClatchie in the village, and also antenuptial

<sup>26</sup> [James Weir](#)

<sup>27</sup> Additional information given in the notes:the Campbells are brothers

<sup>28</sup> [John Mitchell](#)

fornication with his wife Joan Howatson and craving to be restored to the privileges of the Church. The Session agreeing with his request appoint him to be taken on discipline first for fornication with Anniple McClatchie and afterwards for antenuptial fornication. He was accordingly rebuked and admonished and ordered through wait again on the Session this day eight days.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*John Mitchell appears for Fornication*  
*and is rebuked and ordered to wait again on the Session*

**Cumnock 24th March 1822**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

When John Mitchell according to appointment last minute appeared and was rebuked for fornication with Anniple McClatchie and after a suitable admonition and paying a Pound to the poor was absolved from the scandal and ordered to wait on the Session along with his wife on the Sabbath 7th of April next for antenuptial fornication.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*John Mitchell rebuked for*  
*Fornication wt. An. McClatchie & absolved*  
*To appear for antenl. Fornin.*

.....

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**Cumnock 7th April 1822**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Revd. Mr. Boyd of Auchinleck Moderator (in absence of Mr. Frazer), and all the Elders

Compeared John Mitchell in Barlonachan and Joan Howatson his wife for antenuptial fornication. At their request they were taken on Discipline and being rebuked suitably admonished, and fined in 6/8 to the poor, were absolved from the scandal.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*John Mitchell and Joan Howatson appear*  
*for antenl. fornication and are rebuked and absolved*

**Cumnock 14th April 1822**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders

Compeared, voluntarily, Ann Welsh in Garlaff, acknowledging she had brought forth a Child in Fornication to William Ramsay in the parish of New Cumnock the guilt having been committed whilst she was serving in that parish. The Session of New Cumnock having granted her liberty to satisfy the rules of the church here, for the

sake of accommodation, she was rebuked, exhorted to repentance, and ordered to wait again on the Session 29th of April current –  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Ann Welsh rebuked for fornication*  
*To appear again the 29th curr.*

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**Cumnock 29th April 1822**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator John Baird and William Galbraith Elders

Compeared by citation George Moore<sup>29</sup> Watchmaker in Cumnock and Agnes Stewart<sup>30</sup> wife of Mr. James Boyd Merchant there.

*margin note*  
*Geo. Moore & Agnes Stewart appear for Adultery*

The Session having maturely considered their case, unanimously found them guilty of adultery inter se in conformity to the advice they had received from the Presbytery the former from his own letter (see our minute of the 26th August last) and the latter in terms of her own acknowledgement. Against which sentence George Moore protests by taking instruments in the Clerk's hands and craves extracts promising to give in his reasons in due time.

*margin note*  
*George Moore protests*

Agnes Stewart was a rebuked and ordered to appear again before the Session when called on.

*margin note*  
*Agnes Stewart rebuked & to appear again*

Thereafter appeared Ann Welsh, as stated in our last Minute, for fornication with William Ramsay who was rebuked and admonished and having paid 10 shillings to the poor was absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*  
*Ann Welsh appears is rebuked & absolved*

Janet Boyd in Skerrington summoned to this diet sent a letter stating that she had brought forth a Child on Thursday last of which James Gall<sup>31</sup> at present residing in Katrine is the father and that she was not able to attend the/

*margin note*  
*Janet Boyd sends a letter accusing*  
*James Gall as the father of her Child*

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/Session to-day but would appear as soon as her health would permit.

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<sup>29</sup> [George Moore](#)

<sup>30</sup> [Agnes Stewart](#)

<sup>31</sup> name might be Galt

This accusation having been communicated to James Gall who has been long confined to bed by disease and is apparently dying, a letter from him was produced declaring before God and man that as he is to all appearance on his death bed he is free from all criminal connexion Janet Boyd. Which letter is subscribed by him as also by John Forster & William McGaan Witnesses. The Session adjourn the case till Janet Boyd be able to appear before them personally.  
Closed with prayer

*margin note*  
*James Gall refuses the charge of Janet Boyd*

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Cumnock 31st May 1822

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Modr. John Baird and W. Galbraith and John Gibb Elders.

When Janet Boyd appeared and adhered to her accusation of James Gall.

*margin note*

Janet Boyd appears adhering to her accusation of James Gall

The Session considering that he had been in bad health for about a year past most of which time he had been confined to bed and the solemn protestation he had made of his innocence in the prospect of Death as well as the loose conduct of Janet Boyd this being her fourth Child in uncleanness agree to let the matter lye over for some time till God in the course of his providence be pleased to throw more light on it and after a suitable admonition she was dismissed.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*The Session delay the matter for a time*

.....  
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**Cumnock 30th August 1822**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Modr. John Baird and W. Galbraith and J. Gibb Elders.

Compeared by citation Margaret Crichton in Gatehouse and James McMillan<sup>32</sup> Weaver in Cumnock. Margaret Crichton acknowledges that she had brought forth a Child in fornication some weeks ago and accuses James McMillan as the father of her Child. He confesses the guilt – they were consequently rebuked and admonished and ordered to wait on the Session when called on and dismissed for the time.

*margin note*  
*James McMillan & Margaret Crichton appear for fornication*  
*They are rebuked & to continue their appearance*

The Moderator reports that George Moore clockmaker in Cumnock had failed to give in his reasons of appeal and that in consequence he had in his own name and in the name of the Kirk Session here entered his protest that said appeal was fallen from and had thereupon taken instruments in the Clerk's hands Presbytery at their meeting on the 7th current.

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<sup>32</sup> [James McMillan](#)



Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*George Moore's appeal to the Presbytery fallen from*

.....  
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**Cumnock 29 September 1822**

Session constituted with prayers

Present the Modr. and all the Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Allan Hunter<sup>33</sup> and Elisabeth Chessy spouses confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be taken on discipline and restored to the privileges of the Church.

The Session agree to their request and they were accordingly rebuked &

admonished and having paid 6/8d to the poor were absolved from the scandal

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Allan Hunter & Elisabeth Chessy appear for antenuptial fornication*  
*They are rebuked and absolved*

**Cumnock 30th October 1822**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator and all the Elders.

The Session unanimously elect John Baird one of their number as their Elder to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the current half year.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Presbytery & Synod Elders elected*

**Cumnock 17th November 1822**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Modr. John Baird Wm. Galbraith & John Gibb Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Agnes Stewart wife of James Boyd Merchant in Cumnock for the sin of Adultery with Geo. Moore clockmaker

*margin note*  
*Agnes Stewart for adultery rebuked and absolved*

.....  
Page 44

in Cumnock and being rebuked and exhorted to repentance was after paying half a Guinea to the poor absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

**Cumnock 24th November 1822**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Modr. and all the Elders.

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<sup>33</sup> [Allan Hunter](#)

Compeared voluntarily John Wilson and Helen Steel Spouses confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be taken on discipline and restored to the privileges of the Church. The Session agree to their request and being accordingly rebuked and exhorted to repentance after paying 6/8 to the poor they were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*John Wilson & Helen Steel for*  
*Antenuptial Fornication – rebuked and absolved*

### **Cumnock 12th January 1823**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Modr. and all the Elders.

Compeared James McMillan Weaver in Cumnock acknowledging himself do you have been guilty of a trilapse in Fornication and craving to be taken on discipline and restored to the privileges of the Church.

The Session agree to his request and he was accordingly rebuked and /

*margin note*  
*James McMillan appears for a trilapse*  
*in fornication is rebuked and cited to the Presbytery*

.....  
Page 45

admonished and is cited apud acta to appear before the Presbytery of Ayr at the next meeting on the last Wednesday of this month being the 29th day thereof.

Conclude with prayer

N.B. James McMillan appeared before the Presbytery and of which he produced an Extract of their Minutes remitting him to the Session for discipline.

*margin note*  
*McMillan remitted by the Presbytery for discipline*

### **Cumnock 16th March 1823**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Modr. and all the Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Alex. Bowman<sup>34</sup> and Lillias Hamilton Spouses, and Alexander Gibson, (his wife being a Burgher did not attend) confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to the privileges of the Church. The Session agree to their request and they were accordingly rebuked and suitably admonished, and having paid the ordinary penalty to the poor they were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Alexr. Bowman & Lillias Hamilton Spouses*  
*& Alexr. Gibson appear for Antenuptial Fornication*

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<sup>34</sup> [Alexander Bowman](#)

*They are all rebuked and absolved*

**Cumnock 11th April 1823**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Modr. W. Galbraith and J. Gibb Elders.

Compeared Jean Craig in Southhill/

.....  
Page 46

/confessing herself with Child and being seriously exhorted to be ingenuous and tell the truth she delates James Findlay a married man, Servant to [unfilled space] Shankland in Dykes as the father of it – says the guilt was contracted the beginning of October last on a Monday morning before daylight whilst Findlay was residing also at South-Hill and declares that nobody but himself has had any criminal correspondence with her since she had her last child.

*margin note*  
*Jane Craig accuses James Findlay*  
*as the father of a Child of which she is pregnant*

She was rebuked cited apud acta to appear before the Session next Lord's day and the Officer was ordered to summon James Findley to answer to the charge  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*She is rebuked & cited together*  
*with Jas. Findlay to appear next Sabbath*

**Cumnock 13th April 1823**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Modr. and all the Elders

Compeared James Finley and Jean Craig as mentioned in our last Minute. Jean Craig adheres to her accusation of James Findlay who being seriously exhorted to be candid in his reply and asked what he had to say to the accusation positively denies that he had ever any carnal connexion with her. As she can condescend on no evidence at present that may lead to his conviction and is herself a woman of very loose behaviour.

*margin note*  
*The matter is postponed for a time*

.....  
Page 47

/the Session think it advisable to delay farther consideration of the matter for some time to see what future light may be thrown upon it.  
Concluded with prayer

**Cumnock 29th April 1823**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Modr. Wm. Galbraith and John Gibb Elders.

When Robert Macarvail Shoemaker in Cumnock compeared for clandestinely and premeditatively leaving the Country and removing to America carrying with him his Money with the intention of defrauding his Creditors to the amount of many hundred pounds. He was rebuked suitably admonished and thereafter absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Robert Macarvail appears for defrauding his creditors*  
*He is rebuked and absolved*

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Cumnock 29th May 1823

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Modr. W. Galbraith and J. Gibb Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Peter Munn<sup>35</sup> Servant in Logan confessing himself the father of a Child in fornication with Ann Reid also Servant in Logan of which she is pregnant. He was rebuked exhorted to repentance and ordered to wait again on the Session on some future day of which he would receive previous/

*margin note*  
*Peter Munn appears for fornication with Ann Reid*  
*He is rebuked and to continue his appearance*

.....

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/ notice. Ann Reid belonging to the Union Session is taken on discipline by that body  
Concluded with prayer

**Cumnock 3d July 1823**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Modr. W. Galbraith and J. Gibb Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Elisabeth Carruthers late Servant to James McKinlay Innkeeper Cumnock confessing she had brought forth a male child in fornication 2d June last at accusing Robert MacArtie Shipmaster at present residing with Mr. Mitchell Surgeon in Ayr as the father of it. – a few days ago the Mod. received a letter from Mr Mitchell stating that the said Robert McArtie acknowledged the guilt and expressed great anxiety to satisfy the Church and be restored to its privileges but being in an advanced stage of consumption could not be removed to Cumnock.

*margin note*  
*Robert McArtie referred to the Kirk Session of Ayr for discipline*

The Session willing to accommodate him in his present weak state allow him to be taken on discipline by the Kirk Session of Ayr and agree to request that Session to proceed with him, according to the rules of the Church. Elisabeth Carruthers was

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<sup>35</sup> [Peter Munn](#)

rebuked, exhorted to repentance and ordered to wait again upon the Session when called  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*

*Eliza. Carruthers is rebuked & to continue her appearance*

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**Cumnock 5th October 1823**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Modr. W. Galbraith and John Gibb Elders.

Compeared Peter Munn for fornication with Ann Reid as mentioned in our minute of the 29th May last. He was rebuked suitably admonished and having paid the penalty to the poor was absolved.

Conclude with prayer

*margin note*

*Peter Munn is rebuked for Fornication with Ann Reid and absolved*

**Cumnock 16th November 1823**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Modr. and all the Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Walter McMillan<sup>36</sup> and Margaret Brown spouses confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to the privileges of the Church. The Session agreeing to their request they were rebuked, exhorted to repentance and having paid the penalty of 6/8 to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*

*Walter McMillan & Margt. Brown appear for Antenuptial Fornication  
They are rebuked and absolved*

**Cumnock 31st December 1823**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, W, Galbraith John Gibb and John Weir Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Marion King<sup>37</sup> in Cumnock confessing she had brought forth a Child some months ago in Adultery to James/  
.....

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/ Little, a man who has a family and was formally a Wool Carder with her father but who on the fame of her pregnancy breaking out had left the place.

The Session having a learned that he had acknowledged the guilt proceeded to take her on discipline. She was accordingly rebuked and ordered to appear again when called.

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<sup>36</sup> [Walter McMillan](#)

<sup>37</sup> [Marion King](#)

*margin note*  
*Marion King accuses James Little of adultery with her*  
*She is rebuked & to continue her appearance*

James Cowan in Holm being summoned to this diet for fornication with Jane Reid<sup>38</sup> in Barshare was called but compeared not. He is to be summoned again at a future period –  
Conclude with prayer

*margin note*  
*James Cowan summoned to this diet fails to appear.*

**Cumnock 15th February 1824**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Modr. and all the Elders

Compeared voluntarily James Dewer<sup>39</sup> and Elisabeth Brown spouses confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to the privileges of the Church.

*margin note*  
*James Dewer & Elizabeth Brown appear for antenuptial fornication*

The Session agree to their request and they were therefore rebuked and suitably admonished and having the penalty of 6/8 to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer  
margin note  
They are rebuked admonished and absolved.

.....  
Page 51

**Cumnock 30th March 1824**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Modr. W. Galbraith and John Gibb Elders.

Compeared voluntarily John Thomson<sup>40</sup> and Agnes Kyle Baird spouses confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. At their request they were taken on discipline and being rebuked and suitably admonished after paying 6/8 of penalty to the poor they were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayers  
*margin note*  
*John Thomson & Agnes Kyle Baird appear for Antenuptial Fornication*  
*They are rebuked and absolved*

**Cumnock 21<sup>st</sup> May 1824**

Session constituted with prayer

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<sup>38</sup> [Jane Reid](#)

<sup>39</sup> [James Dewer](#)

<sup>40</sup> [John Thomson](#)

Present the Modr. John Baird Wm. Galbraith and John Gibb Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Hugh Fergusson and Janet Welsh spouses in the village acknowledging themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be taken on discipline and restored to the privileges of the church. The Session agreeing to their request they were rebuked exhorted to repentance and having paid 6/8 penalty to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*  
*Hugh Ferguson & Janet Welsh for antenuptial fornication are rebuked admonished & absolved*

The Session elect Wm. Galbraith as their Elder to attend the meetings of the Presbytery & Synod for the current half year.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Presbytery & Synod Elder elected*

.....  
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**Cumnock 27th Sept. 1824**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Mod. W. Galbraith and John Gibb Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Patrick Simson Carrier in Cumnock and Marion Steel his wife confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to the privileges of the church.

The Session agreed to their request and they were accordingly rebuked and admonished and having paid the penalty of 6/8 to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Patrick Simson & Marion Steel for antenuptial fornication are rebuked admonished & absolved*

**Cumnock 17th October 1824**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Mod. and the other members of Session

James Cowan<sup>41</sup> in Holm came voluntarily before the Session confessing himself guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be taken on discipline and restored to Church privileges.

*margin note*  
*James Cowan appears for antenuptial fornication*

The Session reminded him that he was also under scandal of fornication with Jane Reid in Barshare (a woman of the same name with his wife) and asked what he had to say to that. He denied all connexion with her that way. The Session considering

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<sup>41</sup> [James Cowan](#)

that he had been decreed both before the Justice of Peace Court here and the Court of Session and found /

*margin note*  
*He is also guilty of fornication with a woman of the same name with his wife This he denies*

.....  
Page 53

/ liable to maintain the child of said Jane Reid and clearly the opinion that he must have been guilty with her and therefore resolved to let the matter lie over till he have time more seriously to deliberate with himself and dismiss him with a suitable admonition for the present.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*James Cowan's case postponed*

**Cumnock 1st November 1824**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Modr. W. Galbraith J. Gibb Elders

The Session unanimously elect the above named John Gibb as their Elder to attend the meetings of the Presbytery and Synod for the current half-year  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Presbytery & Synod Elder elected*

**Cumnock 7th November 1824**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Modr. and all the Elders

James Hunter and Jane Weir spouses in [unfilled space] came voluntarily before the Session confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to Church privileges. The Session grant their request and being rebuked and suitably admonished upon paying 6/8 of penalty to the poor they were absolved from the scandal.

Closed with prayer

*margin note*

James Hunter & Jane Weir rebuked for antenuptial fornication and absolved

.....  
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**Cumnock 31st December 1824**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Modr. and all the Elders

Notwithstanding an Extract from the Presbytery of Ayr dated 29th of January 1823 remitting for discipline James McMillan formerly Weaver in Cumnock now residing at the Gatehouse for his acknowledged trilapse in fornication the Session having



observed from the Minutes of the 25th December 1808 and 23d January 1809 a case of alleged fornication preferred against him by Christian Thomson, at that time and still residing in the village, lying over undecided which they had inadvertently overlooked when they sent him to the Presbytery are of opinion that they cannot consistently with their duty proceed till that charge be duly investigated.

For this purpose they had intimated to the said Christian Thomson and James McMillan to appear before them this day. Accordingly they both appeared and the foresaid Minutes of the 25 December 1808 and 23d January 1809 being read over in their hearing Christian Thomson still adhere to her former accusation of James McMillan which he refused positively asserting that he never had any carnal correspondence with her. Christian Thomson being asked if she had any farther evidence to corroborate her accusation refers to James McClatchie Collier /

*margin note*

*James McMillan & Christian Thomson appear for alleged fornication*

*McMillan denies her accusation*

*Christian Thomson refers to Witnesses*

.....  
Page 55

/ in Cumnock and Agnes Perry wife of Hugh McGeachin<sup>42</sup> Shoemaker there. Both the parties are summoned apud acta to compear before the Session on 31 January next and the Officer is ordered to summon James McClatchie and Agnes Perry to appear as witnesses at the aforesaid date.

Concluded with prayer

#### **Cumnock 31st December 1824**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, W. Galbraith J. Weir & John Gibb Elders

Compeared voluntarily James Cowan in Holm (second Minute of 17 October last) who after much equivocation at last confessed his guilt with Jane Reid in Barshare. He was rebuked exhorted to repentance and ordered to continue his appearance when required.

*margin note*

*James Cowan confesses his guilt  
with Jane Reid is rebuked & to appear again*

None of the persons mentioned our last minute made their appearance and the matter was put off till the 28th Feby. next.

Concluded with prayer

#### **Cumnock 20th February 1825**

Session constituted with prayer

All the Members were present

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<sup>42</sup> [Hugh McGeachin](#)

James Cowan in Holm made his appearance this day before the Session for the second time and was reviewed and exhausted for the sin of/

.....  
Page 56

/fornication with Jane Reid in Barshare and having paid a Guinea to the poor was absolved from the scandal. He was admitted to discipline with his wife Jane Reid<sup>43</sup> for antenuptial fornication and they were ordered to wait upon the Session for that purpose on the 28th current  
Closed with prayer

*margin note*  
*James Cowan rebuked for fornication with Jane Read and absolved*

### **Cumnock 28th February 1825**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Modr. W. Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

Compeared James Cowan and Jane Reid spouses in Holm for antenuptial fornication as mentioned in our last Minute. They were rebuked and suitably admonished and having paid the penalty of 6/8 to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*  
*James Cowan and Jane Reid are rebuked for antenuptial fornication and absolved*

Whereafter compeared James McMillan and Christian Thomson. She continues to accuse him of having been guilty of fornication with her in the Spring of the year 1808 and of being the father of her Child which was the fruit of that connexion, and he persists in refusing her accusation.

*margin note*  
*James McMillan & Christian Thomson appear*

At the same time James McClatchie<sup>44</sup> Collier in Cumnock appeared as a Witness and being solemnly sworn and purged of partial counsel and desired to state all that he knows of /

*margin note*  
*James McClatchies' evidence*

.....  
Page 57

/Christian Thomson coming up from the Greenmilne together sometime past Nine O'clock on an Evening in the spring time of the year in company with his Sister Annabella McClatchie<sup>45</sup> but they left his sister and she came home by herself. That they did not take the private road which is the nearest but went in the direction of the

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<sup>43</sup> [Jane Reid](#)

<sup>44</sup> [James McLatchie](#)

<sup>45</sup> [Annabel McLatchie](#)

public Road. That he heard Christian Thomson asked James McMillan where Annabella McClatchie was – that he replied “damn’d deaf Bitch she canna hear a word that’s said.” Christian Thomson desired the Moderator to ask witness if he heard her say to James McMillan “If I prove [?] with Child what will become of me? you’ll not marry me.” The question being put, Witness deponed he heard no such words – She says she has no question farther to put to the Witness and James McMillan declines putting any questions at all to him. The Witness depones that this is all he knows of the matter and it’s all truth.  
signed James McClatchie

Agnes Perry wife of Hugh McGeachin Shoemaker in Cumnock was next called as a witness and being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial/

*margin note*  
*Agnes Perry’s evidence*

.....  
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/ counsel and asked if ever she had seen James McMillan about Christian Thomson's house deposes that she saw him helping her flit to a house immediately opposite to Witness' house at the term of Whitsunday she thinks when Christian was pregnant of the Child in question and that she does not recollect of having seen him about her house at any other time – and this is all she can say of the matter and is truth – declares she cannot write

The Session having considered the above resolved to lay the whole before the Presbytery for advice  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Refer it to the Presbytery for advice*

### **Cumnock 31st May 1825**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Modr. W. Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

Jean Wallace cited to this meeting appeared and being interrogated confessed she was with Child and after being seriously exhorted to give up the true father she declares it is James Little a plasterer somewhere about Ayr – says that she informed him of her situation and that he promised to give her a letter about Whitsunday acknowledging /

*margin note*  
*Jean Wallace accuses*  
*James Little of Fornication*

.....  
Page 59

/ his guilt. As she is uncertain where he is now (being, as she calls him, a trampen). The Session advise her to get the letter he had promised her and till she do so they

delay the farther consideration of this Matter and dismiss her with a suitable admonition for the time.

Thereafter appeared voluntarily Mary Findlay in Holmhead confessing she had brought forth a Child in fornication four months ago, and being seriously admonished to give up the true father says it is David Wallace in Greenmill. The Session order their Officer to cite him to their next meeting on 29th of June and cite Mary Findlay apud acta to attend at the same time – she was thereafter suitably admonished and dismissed for the present.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Mary Findlay accuses David Wallace*  
*of Fornication and of being the father of her Child*  
*They are summoned to appear before the Session*

### **Cumnock 9th June 1825**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Modr. William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

The Moderator reports that he has had laid the proceedings in James McMillan & Christian Thomson's case before the Presbytery for advice according to the resolution of the Session 28th of Feby. last and that the Presbytery are of opinion there is nothing conclusive or material in the testimony of the witnesses and that after so long a delay it is/

*margin note*  
*Presbytery's advice in this case*  
*of James McMillan and Christian Thomson*

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/ not advisable to take from Macmillan the oath of purgation (a measure which ought to be resorted to as seldom as possible) and that the Session ought to hold him acquitted of the charge of proffered against him by Christian Thomson.

James McMillan was therefore taken on discipline, in terms of the deliverance of the Presbytery, (See Minutes of 12 Jany 1823, and 31st Decemr 1824), and having appeared with Margaret Crichton (who is now his wife) for fornication, they were rebuked, suitably admonished, and having paid the penalty to the poor, they were absolved.

margin note

Jas. McMillan & Margt. Crichton rebuked for fornication and absolved

Compeared also David Wallace in Greenmiln and Mary Findlay in Holmhead mentioned in our last Minute – Mary Findlay's accusation having been read in his hearing, on being asked if he acquiesced in it he has said he did. They were reviewed and admonished and ordered to wait on the Session again when called on. Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*David Wallace & Mary Findlay rebuked for fornication*  
*ordered to continue their appearance*

**Cumnock 2nd August 1825**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Modr. and all the Elders

Compeared James Begg and Helen Crawford Spouses in Langhouse confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication; William Walker & Elizabeth Drummond, Spouses in the Village, also for antenuptial fornication; and David /

*margin note*  
*Jas. Begg and Helen Crawford*  
*Wm. Walker and Elisa. Drummond*  
*for antenl. fornication are rebuked & absolved*

.....  
Page 61

/ Wallace in Greenmill, and Mary Findlay in Holmhead, for fornication. They were all rebuked, suitably admonished, and having paid their respective a penalty to the poor, were absolved from the scandal.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*David Wallace & Mary Findlay*  
*are rebuked for Fornication & absolved*

**Cumnock 1st September 1825**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Modr. W. Galbraith J. Gibb & J. Weir Elders.

The Session of Dumfries having written the Moderator requesting the Session here to summon Hugh Campbell Grocer in Cumnock to answer to a Charge of Helen Jardine daughter of Widow Jardine in Taylorland accusing him as the father of a Child she had brought forth in uncleanness. The said Hugh Campbell was accordingly summoned to this day's diet and having been seriously exhorted to tell the truth, he acknowledges having had criminal connexion with the said Helen Jardine but denies he is the father of her Child. Being asked his grounds for refusing the Child, he said it did not answer the time and insinuated that she was a woman of bad Character. The Session considering this case to belong to the Session of Dumfries dismiss him with a suitable admonition, and appoint their Clerk to send an extract of this minute to the Mod. of that Session accordingly.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Hugh Campbell is rebuked for*  
*fornication with Helen Jardine in Dumfries*

.....  
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**Cumnock 16<sup>th</sup> October 1825**

Session constituted with prayers  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders  
Compeared voluntarily Thomas German<sup>46</sup> and Elizabeth Stewart spouses in the village, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication, and craving to be

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<sup>46</sup> [Thomas German](#)

restored to the privileges of the Church. The Session agreed to their request and they were accordingly rebuked and suitably admonished and having paid the usual penalty to the poor, were absolved from the scandal  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Thos German and Elisa Stewart*  
*rebuked for antenuptial fornication*

**Cumnock 13th November 1825**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator, Mr Galbraith, John Weir and John Gibb Elders  
The session elect the above John Weir are as their elder to attend the meetings of the Presbytery and Synod for the current half year.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Presbytery and Synod Elder elected*

**Cumnock 28th November 1825**

Session constituted with prayers.  
Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders  
Compeared Agnes McKenzie in Crichton Row confessing she had brought forth a child in fornication to Joseph Turner in the village of Ochiltree and requesting to be restored to the privileges of the church. As the said Joseph Turner had formerly sent a letter for the session written by his own hand acknowledging himself as the father of her child the session agree to her request and she was/

*margin note*  
*Agnes Mackenzie appears for*  
*fornication with Joseph Turner*

.....  
Page 63

/accordingly rebuked and admonished and ordered to continue her appearances.

Joseph Turner having been summoned to this diet was called, but compeared not; whereupon the session appoint him to be summoned pro secundo to appear before them at their meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December next.  
Concluded with prayers.

**Cumnock 30 December 1825**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders

Agnes McKenzie appeared and was rebuked and admonished and on account of her straitened circumstances was absolved from the scandal without paying the fine. Joseph Turner was called but compeared not, the execution of summons from Ochiltree Session stating that he was not now residing there but was said to be about Muirkirk works. Session thinks it advisable to let this case lie over for a little until they can ascertain the place of his residence.

*margin note*  
*Agnes Mckenzie rebuked and absolved*

**Cumnock 31<sup>st</sup> January 1826**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders

Compeared voluntarily William Crichton, Surgeon in Cumnock and Jane Wilson his wife confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be taken on discipline and to be restored members of the church. The session after mature deliberation agrees to their request and they were accordingly rebuked and admonished and in consequence of having aggravated /

*margin note*  
*Wm Crichton Surgeon and Jane Wilson rebuked for antl. fornic.*

.....  
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/their crime by coming forward to the Lord's Table and communicating at the dispensation of the Lord's supper here last summer. They are ordered to continue their appearance.

Thereafter compeared Penelope Dewar in the village confessing herself with child in fornication and accusing Quintin Crawford<sup>47</sup>, Grocer in the Village as the father of it. Also Katherine in the Village acknowledging that she had brought forth a child in fornication some time ago to ? McCall a weaver in the Village who belongs to the seceding Congregation here. She was ordered to get a written acknowledgement from him and both she and Penelope Dewar were rebuked and cited *apud acta* to appear again before the Session here on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February next. The officer is ordered to summon Quintin Crawford to attend at the same time.

**Cumnock February 15<sup>th</sup> 1826**

Session const. with prayer

Present the Moderator W Galbraith and J Gibb, Elder

When William Crichton<sup>48</sup>, Surgeon, and Jane Wilson his spouse appeared a second time for antenuptial fornication, and after being rebuked and suitably admonished, and paying the usual penalty to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*  
*W Crichton 7*  
*Jane Wilson rebuked and absolved*

**Cumnock 28<sup>th</sup> February 1826**

Session constituted with prayer

Present The Moderator William Galbraith and James Gibb, Elder

Compeared Quintin Crawford, Grocer who admits truth of the accusation of Penelope Dewar of the him as father of child of which she is pregnant. He was rebuked and exhorted to **repent** and having paid a guinea to the poor he was ordered to continue his appearances and dismissed for the time.

*margin note*

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<sup>47</sup> [Quintin Crawford](#)

<sup>48</sup> [William Crichton](#)

*Quintin Crawford rebuked for  
fornication*

Thereafter appeared Janet Sloan from Muirkirk lately servant in Crosslar in this parish confessing she had on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November last brought forth a child in fornication and accusing the deceased William Sloan of Darmulloch as the father of it. As it would be inconvenient for her to be taken on discipline here by reason of her distance she requests the favour of being permitted to appear before the Session at Muirkirk to which the Session agrees and after a rebuke and a suitable admonition she was remitted to Muirkirk accordingly and dismissed.

*margin note*

*Janet Sloan appears for fornication accusing  
the deceased Wm Sloan as the father of her child.  
She is remitted to the Session of Muirkirk*

Concluded with prayer

.....  
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**Cumnock 27 March 1826**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb Elder

When Robert Baird and Katherine Vallance<sup>49</sup> spouses in Riderston came voluntarily before the session confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to the privileges of the church. The session grant their request and they were accordingly rebuked and admonished and having paid six shillings and 8p to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*

*Robert Baird & Katherine Vallance  
are rebuked for antl. forn. and absolved*

Thereafter compeared Quintin Crawford grocer and Penelope Dewer in the village for fornication as stated in former minutes and after being a rebuked and exhorted to repent and having previously paid a guinea to the poor they were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*

*Quintin Crawford & Penelope Dewer  
are rebuked for fornication and absolved*

**Cumnock 16 April 1826**

Session constituted with prayers

Present the Moderator and all the Elders

When the session elect William Galbraith one of their number as their Elder to attend the meetings of Presbytery and Synod for the current half year .

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<sup>49</sup> In OPR baptisms she is referred to as Katherine Kerr not Vallance



Concluded with prayer.

*margin note  
Presbytery & Synod elder chosen*

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### **Cumnock 1 May 1826**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator and William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders

Compeared voluntarily Peter Crichton and Ann Hunter spouses in the village confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to the privileges of the church. The Session agree to their request and they were accordingly rebuked and exhorted to repent and having paid 6 shillings and 8 pence of penalty to the poor, they were absolved from the scandal.

*margin note  
Peter Crichton & Ann Hunter  
rebuked for antl. forn. and absolved*

Thereafter appeared voluntarily Janet Ferguson in the village confessing herself with child in fornication and being seriously cautioned and admonished to tell the truth in delating the father of her child she declares that it is Robert Taylor Potter in Cumnock and no other who is the father of her child. She was rebuked and summoned, apud acta, to appear before the Session here at the next meeting on [unfilled space] and they order their Officer to summon the said Robert Taylor to compear also at the same time.

Concluded with prayer.

*margin note  
Janet Ferguson confesses herself with child in forn.  
and accuses Robert Taylor as the father.  
They are both cited to appear at the next session*

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### **Cumnock 5<sup>th</sup> May 1826**

This day a Meeting of the residing Heritors was called for their advice and assistance in managing the poor funds.

Present Alexr Allason<sup>50</sup>, Esq., of Glaisnock, Mr Crichton<sup>51</sup> for the Marquess of Bute, The Revd Mr Frazer, Minister<sup>52</sup>, and Willm. Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders  
The Session report that James Marshall a tinsmith a poor man came to reside here from the parish of Mauchline at Whitsunday in 1823 with his wife and family, and that since his coming to this parish he has never been altogether able to support himself and his family from bad health and other causes but that the people of this town have oftener than once made a contribution for him to keep him from starving. That his wife died within these last few days, when he, pleading his own inability, applied to the Session for a Coffin to her and also for help to bring up an infant this bereaved

<sup>50</sup> [Alexander Allason](#) of Glaisnock House

<sup>51</sup> [Adam Crichton](#) the Factor for Marquess of Bute

<sup>52</sup> [John Frazer](#) minister from 1819-1829

of its mother – that the Session refused him any assistance to his child or family but agreed to furnish a Coffin for the Present that being indispensable on the faith of being reimbursed by the parish of Mauchline, stating what they had done, and requesting them to refund the Coffin, and at the same time to remit a little for Present relief of Marshall's poor family, that the Kirk Session of Mauchline had refused to comply with this reasonable demand declaring they did not think themselves authorised to dispose of their funds in the way prescribed by Cumnock Session.

*margin note*  
*Meeting of the Heritors and Session*  
*to prevent Marshall a pauper from*  
*Mauchline becoming a burden on the poor funds of this parish.*

.....  
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The meeting having taken the same into consideration are clearly of the opinion that Marshall is a parishioner of Mauchline in far as parochial aid is concerned and therefore refuse him assistance whatever referring him to the parish of Mauchline where he decided 30 years previous to his coming into this parish and in case of his failing to establish his domicile in Mauchline they grant a discretionary power to the kirk session here to take legal steps for preventing him from falling a burden on the poor funds of this parish as well as for recovering the price of the Coffin if they shall see cause.

**Cumnock 30 June 1826**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

Compeared voluntarily William Wilson and Christian Crawford spouses in Kyle in the parish of Auchinleck and John Cooper and Margaret Thomson spouses in Cumnock confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to the privileges of the church. The session agree to their request and they wear accordingly rebuked and admonished and after paying the usual fine to the poor were absolved from scandal. Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Wm Wilson and Christian Crawford*  
*also John Cooper and Margaret Thomson*  
*rebuked for antl. forn. and absolved*

.....  
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**Cumnock 29 September 1826**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

Compeared Mary Gray late servant to Mr McKinlay in Donaldston Inn confessing she had brought forth a child on the 14<sup>th</sup> current in fornication to William Jamieson coalmaster at Joppa in the parish of Coylton.

Jane Welsh in South Hill confessing she had brought forth a child in fornication on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January last to John Cameron servant in Loch Hill in the parish of Stair.

Margaret Kirkland<sup>53</sup> daughter of James Kirkland merchant in Cumnock confessing herself with child in fornication and accusing William McClement writer in Cumnock as the father and

Anne Farquhar<sup>54</sup> for ante-nuptial fornication with her husband John Kennedy who has for the Present absconded.

They were all rebuked and suitably admonished and after being all cited apud acta to appear before the session on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October next were dismissed for the time. The reason why Anne Farquhar is to continue in her appearance is that is that she came forward to the Lord's table at last communion when conscious to herself of having been guilty of that crime the session after their office searches Simon William McClement and appoint their clerk to write to the sessions at Coylton and Stair to cause William Jamieson and John Cameron to be summoned to compear here also at the above diet to answer to these charges  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Mary Gray accuses William Jamieson*  
*Jane Wilson accuses John Cameron and*  
*Margt. Kirkland accuses William McClement of fornication*  
*Ann Farquhar appears for antl. forn.*  
*They are all rebuked and admonished*  
*and cited, apud acta, to appear again*  
*Also William Jamieson, John Cameron*  
*and William McClement are to be cited to confront them*

.....

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**Cumnock 31 October 1826**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders

Appeared as mentioned in last minutes Mary Gray but William Jamieson who was previously summoned according to an execution of summons from the court officer of Coylton wrote a letter of apology stating that he could not attend today on account of his having an appointment elsewhere but offering to attend any other day the session might appoint. He is ordered to be summoned pro secundo on Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup> November next and Mary Gray cited apud acta to appear along with him.

*margin note*  
*Mary Gray & Willm Jamieson*  
*are summoned to appear next session*

Thereafter compeared Jane Welsh and John Cameron summoned as per last minutes. He acknowledges her accusation to be just in consequence whereof, they were rebuked and admonished and cited apud acta to appear again before the session here the 30<sup>th</sup> of November next

*margin note*

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<sup>53</sup> [Margaret Kirkland](#)

<sup>54</sup> [Ann Farquhar](#)

*Jane Welsh & John Cameron  
rebuked & admonished  
and summoned before next meeting of session*

Ann Farquhar appeared in obedience to her citation at last meeting of session and after and after a rebuke and a suitable admonition was absolved from the scandal of antenuptial fornication.

*margin note  
Ann Farquhar rebuked and absolved*

William McClement has sent an excuse for not attending this diet by stating that he had an appointment which could not be dispensed with therefore the Officer is ordered to summon him again to appear here/

*margin note  
William McClement and Margaret Kirkland summoned to compear at  
next session 30<sup>th</sup> November*

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/at the next meeting of the Session Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November next when Margaret Kirkland was also to appear.

Concluded with prayer

### **Cumnock November 12, 1826**

Session constituted with prayer

Present to the Moderator and all the Elders

they unanimously elect John Gibb as their elder to attend the meetings of Presbytery and Synod for the current half-year.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note  
Presbytery & Synod elder elected*

### **Cumnock November 30th 1826**

Session constituted as prayer Present the Moderator John Kemp and William Galbraith, Elders

Compeared Margaret Kirkland and William McClement writer both in Cumnock (see a former minute). She adheres to her former accusation of him as the father of her child. William McClement being asked what he had to say to the same, admitted having been guilty with her at one period but refused to father the child till she should swear it upon him. They were rebuked and admonished and cited apud acta to appear again before the Session here the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January next.

*margin note  
Margt Kirkland and W McClement rebuked  
to continue their appearance*

Thereafter appeared John Cameron and Jane Welsh mentioned in our minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> of October last who were rebuked and admonished and afterwards absolved when the said John Cameron was admitted sponsor for his child in baptism

*margin note  
John Cameron and Jane Welsh rebuked and admonished*

.....  
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Compeared next Mary Gray and William Jamieson (mentioned also in a minute of the 31<sup>st</sup> of October) her former accusation having been read she adheres to it still and William Jamieson being asked what he had to say to it admitted having been guilty with her at one time in terms of his letter to the Moderator (in retentis) but refused being the father of her child as it did not agree to his time. The Session considering that it was not the affiliation of the child but the scandal of the case which came more immediately under their cognizance resolved to take them on discipline in terms of their own confession and they were accordingly rebuked, exhorted to repentance and ordered to continue their appearance  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Mary Gray & Wm Jamieson*  
*rebuked and exhorted*

*to continue their appearance*

### **Cumnock 30 January 1827**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders

Compeared Margaret Kirkland and William McClement mentioned in our last minute They were reviewed and suitably admonished and Margaret Kirkland was absolved but William McClymont<sup>55</sup> in consequence of having communicated last Sacrament after the guilt had been committed is ordered to continue his appearance and having paid a guinea of penalty to the poor, he is dismissed for the present.

*Margin note*  
*Margt Kirkland & Wm McClement appear and are rebuked and admonished*  
*Margt is absolved but William McClement is to continue his appearance*

.....  
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### **28 February 1827**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Moderator William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

Compeared voluntarily Hugh McClelland and Isabel Reid spouses in Cumnock confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and requesting to be taken on discipline and restored to the privileges of the Church. The Session agree thereto and they were accordingly rebuked and exhorted to repentance but as they had both communicated at the Sacrament last summer after the guilt was contracted they were ordered to they were ordered to continue their appearance and dismissed for the time.

Concluded with prayer

*Margin note*

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<sup>55</sup> Note change of spelling

*Hugh McClelland and Isabel Reid rebuked  
& admonished for antenuptial fornication*

**Cumnock 18 March 1827**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Reverend Mr Boyd, Auchinleck (in absence of Mr Frazer) William Galbraith, John Gibb and John Weir, Elders

Appeared voluntarily James McCowan now a married man in Cumnock confessing himself guilty of fornication (see our minute of 16 February 1815) with Violet Hair and craving to be taken on discipline and restored to the privileges of the Church. The Session agree to his request and he was accordingly rebuked admonished and ordered to continue his appearance.  
Concluded with prayer.

*Margin note  
James McCowan rebuked for fornication*

**Cumnock 25 March 1827**

Session constituted with prayer.  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders  
James McCowan mentioned in the last minute appeared again before the session and after being rebuked and admonished was absolved from the scandal the ordinary penalty being remitted him from the straitened circumstances/  
.....

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/in which he was placed.  
Concluded with prayer.

*Margin note  
James McCowan rebuked and absolved*

**Cumnock 31 March 1827**

Session constituted with prayer  
present the Moderator William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders

Appeared William McClement writer in Cumnock for fornication with Margaret Kirkland after a rebuke and suitable exhortation he was absolved from the scandal.

*Margin note  
William McClement rebuked and absolved*

Compeared thereafter voluntarily Hugh Mcllelland and Isabella Reid and Cumnock for antenuptial fornication. They were rebuked, suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal  
Closed with prayer

*Margin note  
Hugh McClelland \* Isabel Reid rebuked and absolved*

**Cumnock 30th April 1827**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Moderator William Galbraith John Weir and John Gibb Elders

When they unanimously elect John Weir as their Presbytery and Synod elder for the current half year.

*Margin note  
Presbytery & Synod elder elected*

Appeared Daniel Roxburgh a married man in Shield for imprudently cultivating and frequenting the company of a young girl of the town of Cumnock under the guise of an unmarried man. As it appears evident to the Session that that he had acted this is consistent part through a foolish frolic and with no necessarily criminal intention, he was rebuked and admonished to be more circumspect for the future in his walk and conduct.

*Margin note  
Daniel Roxburgh appears for toying with the girls!  
Rebuked and admonished*

.....  
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**Cumnock 17 June 1827**

Session constituted with prayer .

Present the Moderator William Galbraith, John Gibb and John Weir Elders

Robert Steven and Margaret Baird spouses in Midton came voluntarily before the session confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to the privileges of the Church.

The session agree to the request and they were accordingly rebuked, exhorted to repentance and having paid the usual penalty to the poor were absolved from the scandal

Concluded with prayer

*Margin note  
Robt. Steven & Margt. Baird appear for antenuptial fornication  
and are rebuked and absolved*

**Cumnock 31<sup>st</sup> July 1827**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Moderator and all the Elders

Compeared Elisabeth Gall at present in Muirkirk formerly servant at Crosslar in this parish confessing herself with child and fornication by John Houston servant at Crosslar above mentioned whose acquiescence in her accusation she has in writing under his own hand. She was rebuked and admonished and at her request she was removed to the kirk session of Muirkirk to be taken on discipline according to the rules of the church.

*Margin note  
Eliza. Gall accuses John Houston of fornication*

Also compeared Robert Young and Elisabeth Stewart for antenuptial fornication. They were rebuked and admonished having paid the penalty to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*Margin note*  
*Robt. Young & Elisa. Stewart for antenuptial fornication*  
*rebuked and absolved*

.....  
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**31 August 1827**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Thomas Brown box painter and Katherine Ferguson both of this parish. Catherine confesses to accuse Thomas Brown as the father of a child of which she was pregnant in fornication and he acquiesces in her accusation. They were rebuked and exhorted to repentance and this being Katherine Ferguson's second appearance she was absolved from the scandal and Thomas Brown was ordered to continue his appearance.

Concluded with prayer.

*Thos. Brown & Katherine Ferguson appear for fornication*

**Cumnock 1<sup>st</sup> October 1827**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

Thomas Brown appeared a second time for the sin of fornication with Katherine Ferguson as stated in last minutes and after being rebuked and admonished and having paid half a guinea to the poor was absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer.

*Margin note*  
*Thomas Brown appears again and is absolved*

**Cumnock 30<sup>th</sup> October 1827**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, W Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders

John Houston appeared for fornication with Elisa. Gall as mentioned in our minute of the 31<sup>st</sup> July last and having confessed the charge against /

*margin note*  
*John Houston appears for fornication with Elisa. Gall*

.....  
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/ him, he was rebuked, exhorted to repentance and ordered to continue his appearance.

The Session elect the above named John Gibb as their Elder to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the current half year



Concluded with prayer

*margin note  
Presby. & Synod Elder chosen*

**Cumnock 6th January 1828**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Gibb and John Weir, Elders.

Compeared voluntarily James Wilson and Agnes Hodge spouses at Dumfries House confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be rstored to the privileges of the Church. The Session agree to their request and they were taken on discipline, rebuked and exhorted to repentance and as they had come forward as communicants last celebration of the Lord’s Supper which they were conscious of their sin, they were ordered to appear before the Session another time prvious to their absolution from the Scandal.

Concluded with prayer.

*margin note  
James Wilson & Agnes Hodge appear for antl fornication*

**Cumnock 27th January 1828**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Gibb and John Weir, Elders

Appeared voluntarily James McMillan servant in [blank] confesses himself guilty of fornication with [unfilled space] Weir in Sunnyside parish of Auchinleck and father of a child she had lately brought forth. At his own request he was taken on discipline and being rebuked and admonished was ordered to appear again the 1<sup>st</sup> of February/

.....  
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/next. The woman belongs to the parish of Auchinleck and has made an appearance to the Session of that parish to satisfy the rules of the Church.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note  
James McMillan appear for fornication*

**Cumnock 1<sup>st</sup> February 1828**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

James McMillan mentioned in our last minute appeared again today and being rebuked and exhorted to repentance and having paid half a guinea to the poor was absolved from the scandal.

*Margin note  
James McMillan appears again and is absolved.*

Thereafter appeared William Samson<sup>56</sup> Sawyer in Cumnock for antenuptial fornication with his wife [unfilled space] Vallance<sup>57</sup> agreeably to his request he was taken on discipline and being rebuked and exhorted to repentance after paying 6/ 8 to the poor was absolved from the scandal  
His wife belonging to the Union Secession falls to be taken on discipline by that body.  
Concluded with prayer.

*Margin note  
Wm Samson appears for fornication  
and is rebuked admonished and absolved*

### **Cumnock 17 February 1828**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Weir and John Gibb, Elders.

When James Wilson and Agnes Hodge spouses mentioned the 6<sup>th</sup> of January last appeared again for antenuptial fornication and having been rebuked and exhorted to repentance and after paying a fine to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

*margin note  
Wilson and Hodge appear for antl.  
fornn.and admonished and absolved*

.....  
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### **Cumnock 31<sup>st</sup> March 1828**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders.

James Mitchell<sup>58</sup> in Crosslar appeared voluntarily confessing himself the father of a child brought forth in fornication sometime ago by Elisabeth Shankland in Halglenmuir, parish of Auchinleck. She has made her appearance before that Kirk session and judicially accused him. At his request he was taken on discipline and being rebuked and admonished he was ordered to continue his appearance and dismissed for the time.  
Concluded with prayer.

*margin note  
James Mitchell appears for fornication with Elisa. Shankland.*

### **Cumnock 30<sup>th</sup> April 1828**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Gibb and John Weir, Elders

The session unanimously elect the above William Galbraith as their elder to attend the meetings of Presbytery and Synod for the current half-year.  
Concluded with prayer.

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<sup>56</sup> [William Samson](#)

<sup>57</sup> Agnes Vallance

<sup>58</sup> [James Mitchell](#)

*margin note*  
*Presbytery elder elected*

**Cumnock 30 May 1828**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Moderator John Weir William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders

Compeared voluntarily John McMillan<sup>59</sup> and Elizabeth Gilfillan spouses confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. At their request they were taken up on discipline and were rebuked suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal

*margin note*  
*John McMillan Elisa. Gilfillan appear for antenuptial fornication, are rebuked and absolved*

Thereafter appeared Peter Brannigan confessing himself guilty of fornication with Helen Davidson/

.....  
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/ while they were both servants in Dykes of this parish and the father of a small child she had brought forth a few years ago. He was rebuked, exhorted to repentance and ordered to continue his appearance  
Complete concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Brannigan rebuked & ordered to continue his appearance*

**Cumnock 1st September 1828**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator William Galbraith, John Weir and John Gibb, Elders

Compeared voluntarily for fornication George Brown formerly in this parish, now servant in Blacksidend, parish of Sorn and Mary Pearson in Bridgend of this parish. Ann Dempster formerly servant in Garallan now residing in the village of Dalmellington accusing William Cameron of Lochside, parish of New Cumnock formerly also in Garallan as the father of a child of which she is pregnant and Hugh Baird in Watston of this parish as the father of a child in fornication with Helen Mitchell who belongs to the Union Secession congregation here all confessing themselves guilty as above specified and craving to be taken on discipline and restored to Church privileges.

*margin note*  
*George Brown, Mary Pearson, Ann Dempster, Hugh Baird appear for fornication*

The session agreed to the request and being rebuked and suitably admonished they were ordered to continue their appearance, and dismissed for the time.

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<sup>59</sup> [John McMillan](#)

The above William Cameron is ordered to be summoned here on Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month to appear along with the above Ann Dempster.

Compeared also voluntarily James Hair<sup>60</sup> and Helen Elliott spouses, at present residing in Wallaceton parish of Auchinleck /

.....  
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/ confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to church privileges the session agreed to this the request and they were rebuked exhorted to repentance and having paid the usual penalty to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*  
*James Hair & Helen Elliot rebuked*  
*admonished for antenuptial fornication and absolved*

Thereafter appeared Alexander French<sup>61</sup> box-maker in Cumnock acknowledging himself to have several times importuned Wallace Gilfillan<sup>62</sup>, wife of George Baird, tailor in Cumnock to have carnal connexion with him, a married man and father of numerous family. The Session highly disapproving of his scandalous behaviour, order him to be rebuked which was accordingly done and after a suitable admonition he was absolved from the scandal.  
Concluded with prayer <sup>63</sup>

*margin note*  
*Alexander French in Cumnock appears and*  
*is rebuked for attempting to seduce in adultery*  
*Wallace Gilfillan wife of George Baird tailor in Cumnock*

### **Cumnock September 14, 1828**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders

Appeared voluntarily Colin Walker collier residing at Garallan confessing himself to have been guilty of antenuptial fornication with Margaret Duff his wife who is a member of the Union Secession congregation here and craving to be taken on discipline and restored to church privileges. The session agree to his request and he was accordingly rebuked and suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Colin Walker appears for antl. fornication and is rebuked & absolved*

.....  
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### **Cumnock 30 September 1828**

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<sup>60</sup> [James Hair](#)

<sup>61</sup> [Alexander French](#)

<sup>62</sup> [Wallace Gilfillan](#)

<sup>63</sup> [James Wilson](#)

Session constituted with prayer.  
Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders

Compeared voluntarily George Brown and Mary Pearson as also Ann Dempster mentioned in the minutes of the first current (William Cameron not appearing, having been omitted to be summoned)  
After being rebuked and exhorted to repentance they were all absolved from the scandal

*margin note*  
*Geo. Brown & Mary Pearson*  
*also Ann Dempster are rebuked, exhorted and absolved*

Thereafter compeared John Boswell<sup>64</sup> and Helen Dunsmore spouses from the parish of Auchinleck confessing themselves to have been guilty of antenuptial fornication while the wife was residing in this parish.  
Agreeably to their request they were taken on discipline and having been rebuked and exhorted to repentance they were absolved from the scandal.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*John Boswell & Helen Dunsmore appear for antl. fornication*  
*They are rebuked, admonished and absolved*

### **Cumnock 31 October 1828**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

Compeared voluntarily Charles Baird and Sarah McKelvie spouses, William Johnston and Mary Wilson spouses, Francis McCartney and Jane Gibb spouses, all residing in Cumnock confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to the privileges of the Church.  
The session agree to their request and they were accordingly rebuked, exhorted to repentance and find in 6/8 each pair to the poor and absolved from the scandal  
Thereafter appeared/

*margin note*  
*Chas Baird, Sarah McKelvie, Wm Johnston Mary Wilson, Franc. McCartney & Jane*  
*Gibb Clark appear for antenuptial fornication are rebuked & absolved*

.....  
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/ voluntarily William Cameron and Lochside of New Cumnock for fornication with Ann Dempster (see minute of first September last). At his request he was taken on discipline and being rebuked and admonished he was cited, apud acta, to appear again before the session on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December next.

*margin note*  
*Wm Cameron appears for fornication and is rebuked admonished*  
*to continue his appearance*

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<sup>64</sup> [John Boswell](#)

Appeared also Hugh Baird in Watston, pro secundo, for fornication with Helen Mitchell. He was rebuked and admonished and being fined in half a guinea to the poor absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*  
*Hugh Baird rebuked & admonished pro secundo*  
*is absolved*

Mary Gray appeared for fornication with William Jamieson coal miner formerly at Joppa. She was rebuked and suitably admonished and as she had appeared before for this offence she was absolved from the scandal.  
Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Mary Gray rebuked & admonished pro secundo*  
*is absolved*

**Cumnock 9<sup>th</sup> December 1828**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator and all the Elders

Compeared voluntarily George McTurk and Margaret Robertson spouses in Cumnock confessing themselves to have been guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be purged of the scandal and restored to the privileges of the church. The session agree to their request and they were accordingly rebuked and suitably admonished and being fined in 6/8 to the poor were absolved from the scandal.  
Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*George McTurk & Margaret Robertson appear*  
*for antenuptial fornication and rebuked and absolved*

.....  
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**Cumnock 23 November 1828**

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith John Gibb and John Weir, Elders.  
The session elect the above named John Weir as their elder to attend the meetings of Presbytery and Synod for the current half year  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Presbytery & Synod elder chosen*

**Cumnock December 1<sup>st</sup> 1828**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Gibb and John Weir, Elders.

Appeared again William Cameron for fornication with Ann Dempster as mentioned in a former minute. He was rebuked, exhorted to repentance and having been fined half a guinea to the poor, was absolved from the scandal.  
The session agree with George Goldie to be their Precentor for a year from this date for £2 sterling.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*William Cameron rebuked and absolved*

*George Goldie chosen to present  
in the Church for a year at £2*

**Cumnock January 30<sup>th</sup> 1829**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator, John Gibb and John Weir, Elders.  
Session constituted with prayer.

Compeared voluntarily James Mitchell in Crossler for fornication with Elizabeth Shankland, parish of Auchinleck (see minute of 31<sup>st</sup> March last)  
This being his second appearance he was rebuked and exhorted to repentance and having paid 10 shillings to the poor was absolved from the scandal

*margin note*  
*James Mitchell in Crossler appear pro secundo for fornication  
with Elisa. Shankland and is absolved*

Appeared thereafter by citation Jane Girvan in Langmore for fornication with James Campbell in Blackhouse<sup>65</sup> producing a letter from him acknowledging himself the father of her child. She was rebuked exhorted to repentance and order to continue her appearance on the [unfilled space] /

*margin note*  
*Jane Girvan Langmore rebuked and exhorted to repentance  
for fornication with James Campbell Langhouse  
to continue her appearance*

.....  
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**Cumnock 22 February 1829**

Session constituted with prayer.  
Present the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Gibb, Elders

Compeared John McKerrow<sup>66</sup> and Helen Murdoch, spouses in Holmhead of Auchinleck confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and requesting to be restored to church privileges. The Moderator reports that he had spoke with the minister of Auchinleck concerning the case of these, his parishioners, and that he had to accommodate them allowed this Session to deal with them as if they had belonged to this Parish.

Thereupon the session admit them on discipline and they were rebuked, exhorted to repentance and having paid the fine of 6/8 to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*John Mckerrow Helen Murdoch for antl. fornicn.  
rebuked and absolved*

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<sup>65</sup> margin note gives his address as Langhouse not Blackhouse

<sup>66</sup> [John McKerrow](#)

**Cumnock 27 February 1829**

Session constituted with prayer

Present to the Moderator William Galbraith John Gibb and John Weir, Elders

Appeared voluntarily Peter Branagan (see minute of 30<sup>th</sup> May 1828) for fornication with Helen Davidson. He was rebuked exhorted to repentance and absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*

*Peter Branagan appears pro secundo for fornication with Helen Davidson rebuked and absolved*

**Cumnock 31 March 1829**

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

Alexander Calder<sup>67</sup> who had been a residenter in this parish about 25 years ago being the Wood forester at Dumfries House came before the Session craving a certificate of his character for the time he was a parishioner. The Session being now almost all new members since that period and entirely unacquainted with the applicant refuse him a certificate on the grounds of him being a stranger to them and especially on account of certain/

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/charges which had been proferred against him a short time before his leaving this parish and the revelation of the session entered into then regarding him and a Save all [?] because he had, upwards of 20 years ago, got such a certificate as the Synod allowed him and as the Session then thought themselves warranted to give. The said Alexander Calder protests against this refusal of session by taking instruments in the clerk's hand and appeals to the Revd the Presbytery of Ayr at their next meeting promising to give in his reasons in due time.

*margin note*

*Alexander Calder applies for a certificate and is refused  
Alexander Calder protests*

**Cumnock 30 April 1829**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Weir Elders

Compear voluntarily Alexander McAdam and Janet Loudon lately servants in Knockdon of this parish confessing themselves guilty of fornication, the fruit of which was a child brought forth by said Janet Loudon sometime ago new sentence they were taken on discipline at their request and being rebuked and suitably admonished were ordered to continue their appearance.

*margin note*

*Alexr. McAdam & Jane Loudon appear for fornication. Rebuked & admonished*

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<sup>67</sup> [Alexander Calder](#)



Thereafter appeared Mary Patrick in Ochiltree formerly servant to Hugh Campbell in this village confessing she had brought forth a child in fornication some months ago and being seriously exhorted to tell the truth in delating the father of it declares that she has no other man to give it to than William Campbell son of her foresaid master Hugh Campbell.

She was rebuked exhorted to repentance and cited apud acta to appear again before the session the 29<sup>th</sup> of May next and William Campbell was ordered to be summoned to appear along with her.

*margin note*

*Mary Patrick appears for fornication and accuses Wm. Campbell  
She is rebuked & admonished and summoned to  
appear with Campbell next meeting of session*

Compeared also David Weir and Catherine Shankland spouses in Horsecleugh confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to the privileges of the Church. /

.....  
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They were rebuked and admonished and as they had both been communicants at the last Sacrament year while under the knowledge of the guilt. They were ordered to make a second appearance on Sabbath next and dismissed for the time.

*margin note*

*David Weir and Catherine Shankland  
appear for fornication.  
They are rebuked & admonished.  
To continue their appearance*

Alexander Calder having failed to lodge his reasons of appeal as per last minute the session hold him as having fallen from his protest and forfeited his privileges of appeal accordingly  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*

*Alexr Calder falls from his appeal to the Presbytery*

### **Cumnock 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1829**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator and William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

Compeared David Weir and Catherine Shankland a second time for antenuptial fornication. They were rebuked, exhorted to repentance and absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*

*David Weir and Catherine Shankland absolved.*

The session elect William Galbraith their elder to attend the meetings of Presbytery and Synod for the current half year.  
Concluded with prayer

*margin note*  
*Wm. Galbraith elected Presbytery and Synod elder*

**Cumnock 29th May 1829**

Session constituted with prayer.  
Present the Moderator William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

Alexander McAdam and Janet Loudon as per minute of the 30<sup>th</sup> ultimo compeared pro secundo and being rebuked and exhorted to repentance for the sin of fornication were absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*

.....  
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**Cumnock 30 June 1829**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders.

Appeared a second time Mary Patrick in Ochiltree producing a line from William Campbell in the village acknowledging himself the father of her child. The sessions sustain this acknowledgement and she was rebuked and admonished and absolved from the scandal. They also allow her an Extract of this minute that she may be admitted sponsor for her child in baptism. William Campbell failed to make his appearance and as this is the fifth child of which he is the father in fornication, the Session think it improper to proceed any further with him at present.  
Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Mary Patrick rebuked and absolved*

**Cumnock 30<sup>th</sup> September 1829**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders

Compeared voluntarily Thomas Brown painter in Cumnock and his wife Catherine Ferguson confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. They were rebuked and suitably admonished and having paid a fine of 6/8 to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*  
*Thomas Brown Cath. Ferguson for antl. fornic.  
Rebuked & admonished*

Thereafter appeared Margaret Bell<sup>68</sup> in Boylston accusing James Mitchell<sup>69</sup> in Crossler as the father of a child she had lately brought forth in fornication. She was rebuked and admonished and ordered to appear again when called to confront the said James Mitchell who is to be served with summons to compear the first convenient day for the Session  
Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Margt. Bell accuses James Mitchell*

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<sup>68</sup> [Margaret Bell](#)  
<sup>69</sup> [James Mitchell](#)

*of fornn. Rebuked and to continue her appearance*

.....  
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**Cumnock 13 December 1829**

Session constituted with prayer

Present in the vacancy of the church the Revd. Mr Stuart, minister of Sorn  
Moderator, William Galbraith John Gibb and John Weir, Elders

Margaret Bell in Boyleston mentioned in our last minute, appeared a second time adhering to her former accusation of James Mitchell in Crosslar who not being able to attend from having met with the accident last Tuesday of a broken leg, sent a line acquiescing in the charge.

She was rebuked, exhorted to repentance and having paid half a guinea of fine to the poor was absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*margin note*

*Margaret Bell rebuked and absolved*

**Cumnock 27 December 1829**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Reverend Robert Craig, Minister of New Cumnock, Moderator, John Weir, William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Grizzel Clark from Dalmellington formerly a servant in this parish confessing herself guilty of fornication and accusing John Brown servant in Langhouse as the person guilty with her. John Brown who was also in attendance acquiesces in her accusation. They were both rebuked and ordered to continue their appearance this day fourtnight.

*margin note*

*John Brown & Grizzel Clark rebuked for fornication.*

Compeared next Margaret Baird in Polquhap making a similar confession and accusing the aforesaid John Brown also. They were rebuked and summoned apud acta to appear /

.....  
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/ this day fourtnight.

Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*

*John Brown & Margaret Baird rebuked for fornication*

**Cumnock 10 January 1830**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Reverend Mr Duncan, minister of Coylton Moderator, William Galbraith, John Weir and John Gibb.

Compeared John Brown and Grizzel Clark a second time for the sin of fornication. They were rebuked, exhorted to repentance and Grizzel Clark was absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*  
*John Brown & Grizzel Clark*  
*rebuked & admonished. Clark absolved*

Compeared also John Brown as above and Margaret Baird, a second time, for fornication. They were rebuked and admonished, and Margaret Baird was absolved. John Brown was cited apud acta to appear again before the Session the 24<sup>th</sup> instant.

*margin note*  
*John Brown & Margt. Baird rebuked & admonished.*  
*Baird absolved Brown to appear again*

Thereafter compeared voluntarily James Houston & Marion Wilson, spouses, in Cumnock, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. At their request they were taken on discipline, and being rebuked and admonished and having paid a fine to the poor, they were absolved from the scandal. Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*James Houston and Marion Wilson rebuked &*  
*admonished for antl. fornication and absolved*

### **Cumnock 24<sup>th</sup> January 1830**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Revd. Mr Rorison, minister of Stair, William Galbraith, John Weir and John Gibb, Elders.

Appeared John Brown as per last minutes for fornication with Grizzel Clark and Margaret Baird. He was rebuked and exhorted to repentance and absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*John Brown rebuked, admonished and absolved*

.....  
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### **Cumnock 21<sup>st</sup> February 1830**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Revd Mr Ritchie of Tarbolton Moderator, William Galbraith John Gibb and John Weir, Elders

Compeared voluntarily John Murdoch and Janet Shankland spouses confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to the privileges of the Church. The Session agree to their request & they were accordingly rebuked and admonished and, having paid a fine to the poor, were absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*  
*John Murdoch Jane Shankland appear for antl. fornication*  
*and are rebuked admonished and absolved*

Thereafter appeared also voluntarily Mary Clarkson in Cumnock acknowledging herself guilty of fornication and accusing Andrew Robertson<sup>70</sup> box painter in Cumnock of having been the person guilty with her. She was rebuked and

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<sup>70</sup> [Andrew Robertson](#)

summoned apud acta to appear again before the Session here on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March immediately after the dismissal of the Congregation and the Officer was ordered to summon the said Andrew Robertson to appear and answer the charge.  
Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Mary Clarkson accuses Andrew Robertson boxmaker*  
*in Cumnock of fornication with her.*  
*They are both to appear first Sabb. of March*

### **Cumnock 7<sup>th</sup> March 1830**

Sess. const.

Present the Revd Mr Stuart Minister of Sorn, Moderator, John Baird, Wm. Galbraith and John Gibb Elders.

Mary Clarkson and Andrew Robertson, the parties mentioned in our last minute, having been duly summoned to this diet were called but compeared not. The Session having been informed/  
.....

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/ that Mary Clarkson has removed to Sanquhar to be with her parents in her confinement which is drawing near postpone the farther prosecution if they can for a time till that event shall have taken place.

Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Margin note*  
*Mary Clarkson Andrew Robertson fail to appear*

### **Cumnock 21<sup>st</sup> March 1830**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Revd Stair McQuhaie<sup>71</sup> Minister of St Quivox Moderator and all the Elders.

John McKinnon<sup>72</sup> boxpainter and Janet Moodie spouses in Cumnock, compeared voluntarily confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to the privileges of the Church. The Session agree to their request and they were accordingly rebuked and exhorted to repentance and have paid the penalty to the poor. were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*John McKinnon Janet Moodie appear for antl. fornication*  
*Rebuked, admonished and absolved*

### **Cumnock 4<sup>th</sup> April 1830**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Revd James Boyd Minister of Auchinleck Moderator, and all the Elders.

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<sup>71</sup> 1820 - 1859 Rev Stair Park McQuhae

<sup>72</sup> [John McKinnon](#)

David Hammond<sup>73</sup> shoemaker in Cumnock and Jane Buchan spouses confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and crave to be restored to church privileges. The session agree to their request and they were accordingly rebuked and admonished and having paid a fine to the poor were absolved from the scandal. Closed with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Davd. Hammond Jane Buchan appear for antl. fornication*  
*Rebuked, admonished and absolved*

.....  
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**Cumnock 25 April 1830**

Session constituted with prayer

Present Reverend James Boyd minister of Auchinleck Moderator John Baird, William Galbraith & John Gibb Elders

Appeared voluntarily James Mitchell in Crossler for the offence of fornication with Margaret Bell in Boylston as mentioned in our minute of the 13<sup>th</sup> of December last. He was rebuked, exhorted to repentance and ordered to continue his appearance.

*margin note*  
*Jas. Mitchell in Crossler rebuked and admonished for fornication*  
*To continue his appearance*

Thereafter appeared Andrew Thomson shoemaker in Cumnock for his irregular and shameful conduct getting himself frequently drunk, and mistreating his wife. He was rebuked and suitably admonished and thereafter admitted sponsor for his child in baptism.

Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Andrw. Thomson appears for drunkenness*  
*and ill usage toward his wife*  
*rebuked and admonished*

**Cumnock 16 May 1830**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Reverend James Boyd of Auchinleck Moderator and all the Elders. James Mitchell in Crosslar appeared again for the offence of fornication with Margaret Bell in Boylston and having been rebuked and admonished and the usual penalty being paid to the poor he was absolved from the scandal. Concluded with prayer.

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**Cumnock 6<sup>th</sup> June 1830**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Reverend James Boyd of Auchinleck Moderator and all the Elders.

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<sup>73</sup> [David Hammond](#)

When Robert Macarvail shoemaker in Cumnock appeared professing sorrow for filling himself drunk and sending for one of the Elders to a public house in Town and in his presence, in a most wanton, scoffing, profaned and audacious manner calling King David an Adulterer and a Murderer. He was rebuked suitably admonished and absorbed from the scandal of the offence. Concluded with prayer.

*Margin note  
Robert Macarvail appears for drunkenness and depravity  
and is rebuked, admonished and absolved*

### **Cumnock 1 August 1830**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Reverend Mr Stuart of Sorn Moderator p.t.<sup>74</sup> and all the Elders

Compeared voluntarily confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication the following parties, viz.

David Nimmo<sup>75</sup> and Mary Moodie, spouses; David Murdoch<sup>76</sup> and Mary Weir, spouses, George Fallas<sup>77</sup> and Margaret Grier, spouses. At their request they were taken on discipline and were rebuked and admonished and David Nimmo and David Murdoch having paid a fine to the poor of 6/8 each and George Fallas being excused on the score of poverty, they were all absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer.

*margin notes  
David Nimmo & Mary Moodie, David Murdoch & Mary Weir, George Fallas &  
Margaret Grier appear for antl. fornication  
They are rebuked, admonished and absolved*

.....  
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### **Cumnock 7th November 1830**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator<sup>78</sup> and all the Elders

James Hamilton<sup>79</sup> shoemaker in Cumnock and Janet McCarra his wife appeared voluntarily confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be taken upon discipline and restored to the privileges of the Church. The Session agreeing to the request, they were rebuked and admonished and having paid the penalty to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer.

*Margin notes  
James Hamilton and Janet McCarra appear  
for antl. fornication and are rebuked and absolved from the scandal*

### **Cumnock 27 December 1830**

Session constituted with prayer.

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<sup>74</sup> pro tem

<sup>75</sup> [David Nimmo](#)

<sup>76</sup> [David Murdoch](#)

<sup>77</sup> [George Fallas](#)

<sup>78</sup> the new minster Rev Ninian Ballantyne

<sup>79</sup> [James Hamilton](#)

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Gibb and John Weir, Elders.

Compeared voluntarily John McClanachan<sup>80</sup> and Helen Lapraik spouses in Little Auchingilsie confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to Church privileges. The Session agree to their request and they were rebuked, exhorted to repentance and having paid a fine to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer

*Margin notes*  
*John McClanachan & Helen Lapraik appear*  
*for antl. fornication and are rebuked and absolved from the scandal*

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**Cumnock 16 January 1831**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Gibb and John Weir, Elders.

Mary Clarkson (see minute of 7 March last) appeared voluntarily today continuing to accuse Andrew Robertson boxpainter in this Town as having been guilty of fornication with her and the Father of a Child she brought forth several months ago. The Session order a summons for Andrew Robertson to appear before them the 31<sup>st</sup> Jany. and cited Mary Clarkson, apud acta, to appear along with him. She was rebuked and admonished and dismissed for the time.

*margin note*  
*Mary Clarkson accuses Andrew Robertson of fornication.*  
*She is rebuked and they are both summoned to appear 31<sup>st</sup> Jany.*

**Cumnock 31st January 1831**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Gibb and John Weir, Elders.

Compeared Mary Clarkson and Andrew Robertson, mentioned in last minute when Andrew Robertson acquiesces in Mary Clarkson's accusation.

*margin note*  
*Andw. Robertson & Mary Clarkson and*

Compeared also voluntarily John Howat<sup>81</sup> in Meadow and Margaret Findlay in Clockclocher confessing themselves guilty of fornication. They were all rebuked and admonished and this being Mary Clarkson's second appearance, she was absolved from the scandal and the rest were cited apud acta to appear again on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> February next.

Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*John Howat & Margaret Findlay appear for fornication*  
*they were rebuked admonished when Mary Clarkson was absolved*  
*and the other three to continue their appearance*

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**Cumnock 28<sup>th</sup> February 1831**

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<sup>80</sup> [John McLanachan](#)

<sup>81</sup> [John Howat](#)



Session constituted with prayer.  
Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

Compeared Andrew Robertson and John Howat and Margaret Findlay as per last minute. Compeared also voluntarily Alexander Shankland and Margaret Vallance<sup>82</sup> for antenuptial fornication. They were all rebuked and suitably admonished and having paid penalties to the poor as per the Church Book they were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Andw. Robertson, John Howat & Margaret Findlay,*  
*Alexander Shankland and Margaret Vallance*  
*rebuked admonished and absolved*

### **Cumnock 12<sup>th</sup> May 1831**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Moderator, John Gibb and William Galbraith, Elders

Compeared voluntarily John Steel grocer in Cumnock and Elisabeth Rough his wife confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be taken upon discipline and restored to the privileges of the Church. The Session agree to their request and they were accordingly rebuked, exhorted to repentance and having paid a penalty of 6/8 to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*  
*John Steel & Elisabeth Rough appear for antenupl. fornication*  
*rebuked and absolved*

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### **Cumnock 27<sup>th</sup> June 1831**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Moderator, John Gibb and William Galbraith, Elders

Compeared voluntarily James Weir<sup>83</sup> and Elisabeth Lapraik confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be restored to Church privileges. The Session agree to their request and they were rebuked, and suitably admonished and having paid a penalty to the poor were absolved from the scandal.

Closed with prayer.

*margin note*  
*James Weir & Elisa. Lapraik appear for antl. fornication*  
*they are rebuked, admonished and absolved from the scandal*

### **Cumnock 25<sup>th</sup> July 1831**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Moderator, John Gibb and John Weir, Elders

Compeared voluntarily James Hamilton servant in Lochside and Lillias Cumming servant in Lowes both in the parish of New Cumnock confessing themselves guilty of

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<sup>82</sup> should be [Mary Vallance](#)

<sup>83</sup> [James Weir](#)

fornication while they were both servants in this parish. They were rebuked ,  
exhorted to repentance and cited apud acta to compear again before the Session  
here the second Sabbath of August next.  
Closed with prayer.

*margin note*  
*James Hamilton & Lillias Cumming appear for fornication  
rebuked and to continue their appearance*

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**Cumnock 14th August, 1831**

Session constituted with prayer.  
Present the Moderator & all the members.

James Hamilton and Lillias Cumming as stated in the last minute appeared pro  
secundo; and being rebuked and duly admonished and exhorted after paying a  
penalty to the poor of Ten Shillings, they were absolved from the scandal.  
Closed with prayer

*margin note*  
*Jas. Hamilton & Lillias Cumming appeared  
pro secundo & and rebuked and absolved*

**Cumnock 2nd October 1831**

Session constituted with prayer.  
Present the Moderator & all the members.

Compeared voluntarily, David Wilson and Mary Edgar, Spouses in Boreland Mill,  
confessing themselves guilty of Antenuptial Fornication, and craving to be restored  
to the privileges of the Church. The Session agree to their request and being  
rebuked and admonished, and having paid a penalty to the poor, they are absolved  
from the scandal.  
Closed with prayer.

*margin note*  
*David Wilson & Mary Edgar Boreland Mill  
appear for antenl. Fornication & rebuked and absolved*

**Cumnock 26 December 1831**

Session constituted with prayer.  
Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Gibb, & John Weir, Elders  
Compeared, voluntarily, James Reid<sup>84</sup>, Fiddler, and Janet Pearson, also Andrew  
Robertson, Boxpainter, and Maria Davidson, all residing in Cumnock, confessing  
themselves guilty of Antenuptial Fornication, and craving to/

.....  
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/ be restored to the privileges of the church. The session agree to their request, and  
they were rebuked and admonished, and having paid a find the poor, or absolved  
from the scandal.  
Concluded with prayer.

*margin note*

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<sup>84</sup> [James Reid](#)

*Jas. Reid & Janet Pearson & Andw. Robertson & Maria Davidson appear for antenuptial Fornication and are rebuked & absolved.*

**Cumnock 30th January 1832**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present with the Moderator John Weir & John Gibb Elders

Jane Arthur in Cumnock, came voluntarily before the Session, confessing herself guilty of Fornication with Adam Moodie<sup>85</sup>, Box maker, lately in Cumnock, now out of the Country, and said to be gone to America, to whom she acknowledges she brought forth a female Child, about 13 months ago. Upon her own confession, and at her request, she was taken on discipline, and being rebuked and admonished was ordered to continue her appearance. Closed with prayer.

*margin note*

*Jane Arthur accuses Adam Moodie of fornication  
She is rebuked & admonished and to continue her appearance*

**Cumnock 5th February 1832**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator, John Gibb John Weir and Willm. Galbraith Elders

Compeared voluntarily, David Hammond, Townfoot of Cumnock, who had been refused baptism to his Child, on the score of his having used unbecoming, gross, and abominable language to Jane Gemmell, also in the Townfoot, and of whom he rents his house. He was rebuked for his unmanly and scandalous conduct, and admonished/

.....  
Page 102

/ to be more circumspect, and bridle his Tongue for the future, and absolved from the Scandal.

Closed with prayer

*margin note*

*D. Hammond Shoemr. Cumnk. rebuked & admonished for gross language used to his Landlady Jane Gemmell, Hammond is absolved from the Scandal.*

**Cumnock 26th March 1832**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith, & John Gibb, Elders

Jane Arthur appeared again for Fornication with David<sup>86</sup> Moodie, as stated in a minute of 30 January last; and at the same time compeared voluntarily, James Baird and Jane Crawford in Riderston Spouses, and James Crichton and Janet Dunsmore, spouses, in Cumnock, for a F. They were all rebuked and admonished, and they're upon absolved from the scandal

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<sup>85</sup> [Adam Moodie](#)

<sup>86</sup> should be Adam Moodie

Closed with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Jane Arthur appears for Fornication & Jas. Baird & Jane Crawford Spouses  
& Jas. Crichton & Jane Dunsmore for antenuptial Fornication  
they are all rebuked, admonished & absolved*

**Cumnock 1st April 1832**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator & all the members

Compeared voluntarily for antenuptial fornication, Hugh Patrick, Labourer in Cumnock, and Flora Brown, his wife. They were taken on discipline at their request and being rebuked admonished what absolved from the scandal.  
Closed with prayer

*margin note*  
*Hugh Patrick & Flora Brown appear for antl. Fornication.  
They are rebuked admonished & absolved*

.....  
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**Cumnock 30 April 1832**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present with the Moderator William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

Compeared voluntarily for antenuptial fornication the following parties viz. Andrew McClanachan and Nicholas Black spouses in Milzeoch and William Bryan Wright in Cumnock and Jane Richmond, his wife.  
They were rebuked and admonished and having paid a penalty to the poor would absolved from the scandal  
Closed with prayer

*margin note*  
*Aw. McClanachan & Nicholas Black Wm. Bryan & Jane Richmd. appear fpr antl.  
fornication*  
*They are rebuked admonished & absolved*

**Cumnock 3rd June 1832**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present with the Moderator, John Baird John Gibb and John Weir, Elders

When Alexander Kennedy Blacksmith at Plantingside<sup>87</sup> appeared before the Session for Drunkenness. He was rebuked and admonished to be more circumspect in his behaviour for the future and absolved from the scandal.  
Closed with prayers

*margin note*  
*Alex. Kennedy appears for drunkenness  
He is a rebuked admonished & absolved*

.....  
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**Cumnock, 27th August 1832**

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<sup>87</sup> Plantainside Smithy

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Mod., William Galbraith, John Gibb, and John Weir Elders

Compeared voluntarily, William Robb and Agnes McKinlay confessing themselves guilty of Fornication some time ago, while the former was residing in Benston and the latter was Serving in Ward both in this parish – the session at their request take them on discipline and they were accordingly rebuked and admonished and ordered to continue their appearance.

*margin note*

*Wm. Robb & Agnes McKinlay rebuked for Fornn.*

Euphemia French late servant at Dumfries House appeared voluntarily confessing herself to have been guilty of Adultery with David Thomson Gamekeeper at Dumfries House, and craving to be taken on Discipline. The Session, knowing that David Thomson has left the country and is reported to have gone to America, and that both he and the said Euphemia French were dismissed from their service for their criminal conversation, and also, having been informed by Mr Crichton, Factor, that Thomson, when taken to account to by him, had acknowledged the charge, agree to take her on discipline on her own confession, and after a suitable rebuke and admonition cite her, apud acta, to appear before the Revd. Presbytery of Ayr at the next Meeting

*margin note*

*Euphemia French accuses Dad. Thompson of Adultery  
She is cited before the Presbytery*

Appeared also voluntarily Janet Fergusson in Townfoot of Cumnock craving to be purged of the Scandal of fornication with Robert /

*margin note*

*Janet Ferguson accuses Robert Taylor and Alex. Crawford of Fornn.*

.....  
Page 105

/ Taylor of the Pottery, Cumnock, (Session minute of 16<sup>th</sup> April 1826, changed to 1<sup>st</sup> May 1826)) and also with Alexr. Crawford, Boxmaker in Cumnock, to each of whom she had brought forth a Child. The Session having considered the same, cite her, apud acta, to appear before them the 1st of October next, and order their Officer to summon Robert Taylor to compear with her.

*margin note*

*Janet Ferguson & Robt. Taylor cited to next Session.*

### **Cumnock, 29th October 1832**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator, John Weir, William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders

Compeared voluntarily for Antenuptial Fornication, the following parties viz. Andrew Ronald, Apprentice Wright, with George McCartney, Clockclownie, and his wife, Katherine McCrie, residing with her father in Clockclownie, Donald Cochrane & Margaret Jamieson Spouses in Holehouseholm<sup>88</sup>

*margin note*

*Andr. Ronald & Katherine McCrie  
Donald Cochrane Margt. Jamieson appear for anlt. fornication*

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<sup>88</sup> later known as Hollowsholm

They were taken of discipline at their request and being rebuked and suitably admonished were absolved from the scandal – Ronald’s penalty was remitted him on account of his being in straitened circumstances and an apprentice.

*margin note  
Rebuked & absolved*

Thereafter appeared Euphemia French, who produced an extract from the Presbytery of Ayr remitting her to this Session for discipline. She was accordingly rebuked, exhorted to repentance and ordered to continue her appearance at the next meeting of Session

*margin note  
Euphemia French for Adultery  
rebuked & to continue her appearance*

Janet Fergusson was called, but compeared not — The Session, in consideration of her laxity of conduct, and her vacillant behaviour in this matter, having also failed to appear to the summons of 16th April 1826, unanimously agree to delay farther proceedings in her case, for the present and debar her from Church privileges till she be purged from the Scandal  
Closed with prayer

*margin note  
Janet Fergusson failed to appear.  
Her case is suspended*

.....  
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### **Cumnock 18th November 1832**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Revd. Mr. Boyd of Auchinleck Moderator pro tempore, and all the Elders

When John Gibb one of their members was elected their Elder to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the current half year – closed with prayer

*margin note  
Presbytery and Synod elder elected*

### **Cumnock 26th November 1832**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith & John Gibb Elders

Compeared voluntarily James Arthur & Isabel Crichton Spouses in Riderston<sup>89</sup> confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial Fornication. They were taken on discipline according to their request, and being rebuked & absolved from the scandal.

*margin note  
James Arthur & Isabel Crichton  
rebuked for antl. Fornication & absolved*

John Kennedy at present residing in Auchinleck, formally in this parish, appeared, confessing himself to have been guilty of Fornication with Janet Hodge, and of

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<sup>89</sup> Ryderston

Antenuptial Fornication with his wife Ann Farquhar. He was taken on discipline and rebuked and admonished to continue his appearance.  
Closed with prayer

*margin note*

*John Kennedy now in Auchinleck appears for Forn. – is rebuked & to continue his appearance*

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**Cumnock 16th December 1832**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith John Gibb and John Weir Elders.

Compeard William Robb and Agnes McKinlay (see minute of the 27th August last) pro secundo for fornication. They were rebuked and exhorted to Repentance and having paid a penalty to the poor were absolved from the scandal  
Closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Wm. Robb & Agnes McKinlay rebuked for Fornication & absolved*

**Cumnock 28th January 1833**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders

John Kennedy, whose case is mentioned in our Minute of 26th of November last, appeared a second time, and was rebuked for the sin of Fornication with Janet Hodge, who belongs to the Secession, and being suitably admonished was absolved and admitted to be taken on discipline at a future day for antenuptial fornication with his wife Ann Farquhar.

*margin note*

*John Kennedy rebuked for fornication with Janet Hodge absolved  
To appear again for antenuptial Fornication*

Thereafter appeared Janet Edgar in Boreland Miln [Borland Mill] compearing herself to have been guilty/

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/ of fornication with William Young, Ma...<sup>90</sup> in Cairn; and that, in consequence, she has brought forth a Child to him, the 14th of March last. At the same time she produced a letter from him, acknowledging himself guilty in terms of her accusation. The session accordingly and in consideration of Young's having gone to America, take her on discipline, and she was rebuked and suitably admonished, and ordered to continue her appearance.  
Closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Jane Edgar rebuked for fornication with  
Willm. Young in Cairn who has left the Country  
To continue her appearance*

**Cumnock, 25th February, 1833**

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<sup>90</sup> rest of word hidden in centrefold

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Mod. William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

Jane Smith<sup>91</sup> in Pavickhill, remitted from the parish of Symington for Fornication with Andrew Campbell a Servant in that parish and Ann Farquhar, came voluntarily before the Session. They were rebuked and exhorted to repentance, when John Kennedy was absolved and Jane Smith was ordered to continue her appearance  
Closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Jane Smith for fornication and John Kennedy  
for antenuptial fornication rebuked*

*Kennedy is absolved & Smith to continue her appearance*

### **Cumnock 27th May 1833**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator & John Gibb and John Weir Elders.

Janet Edgar again appeared before the Session for the sin of fornication with William Young as stated in a former minute. She was reviewed and admonished and absolved from the scandal.

Closed with prayer.

*margin note*

*Janet Edgar rebuked admonished & absolved from the scandal*

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### **Cumnock 21 July 1833**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator & all the Elders.

Compeared, voluntarily, George Drennan<sup>92</sup> and Jane Blyth, compearing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication, and craving to be restored to the privileges of the Church. The Session agree to their request, and they were, therefore, rebuked and admonished, and absolved from the scandal.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Geo. Drennan & Jane Blyth for antenuptial fornication  
Rebuked admonished & absolved*

### **Cumnock 30th September 1833**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

Appeared voluntarily, James Dunsmore and Mary Wallace, spouses, in Thomerston, confessing the themselves guilty of Antenuptial fornication. At their request being taken on Discipline, they were rebuked and admonished in the usual form, and having paid a penalty to the poor, were absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*

*Jas. Dunsmore & Mary Wallace  
for antl. fornication – rebuked & absolved*

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<sup>91</sup> Jane Catto [Smith](#)

<sup>92</sup> [George Drennan](#)



Thereafter appeared Jane Smith in Pavickhill for fornication with Andrew Campbell in Symington parish, (See Minute of 25th July last), who being a rebuked and admonished, was absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*

*Jane Smith for fornication rebuked and absolved.*

Compeared also Agnes Clark<sup>93</sup> and James Mathies, for fornication. They were cited, apud acta, to compeared before the Session this day month, to be taken on Discipline.

Closed with prayer.

*margin note*

*Agnes Clark & Jas. Mathies in Cumnock cited to appear the 28th curr.*

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### **Cumnock 28<sup>th</sup> October 1833**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith & John Gibb, Elders

Compeared voluntarily for antenuptial fornication Elizabeth McDonald her husband John Andrews having enlisted for a soldier, and for fornication Agnes Clark with James Mathieson as stated in last minute and William Robb with Agnes Trummel in Kirkconnel. They were rebuked, exhorted to repentance and Elizabeth McDonald was absolved from the scandal . The other two to continue their appearance.

*margin note*

*Elizabeth McDonald for antenuptial fornication rebuked & absolved*

*Agnes Clark & William Robb for fornication, rebuked to continue their appearance*

Closed with prayer

### **Cumnock 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1833**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith & John Gibb, John Weir, Elders.

The Session unanimously elected John Weir, one of their number, their Elder to attend Presbytery and Synod for the current half year.

Session closed with prayer.

*margin note*

*Presbytery & Synod Elder elected*

### **Cumnock 25<sup>th</sup> November 1833**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Gibb and John Weir, Elders

Compeared voluntarily Agnes Clark in the town for fornication with James Mathies and John Dunbar<sup>94</sup> and Elizabeth Hamilton spouses in Watston for antenuptial fornication inter se; also James Hamilton a servant in the parish of Dreghorn and Mary Smith in Pavickhill in this parish for fornication inter se. They were all rebuked

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<sup>93</sup> [Agnes Clark](#)

<sup>94</sup> [John Dunbar](#)

and admonished and Agnes Clark, John Dunbar and Elizabeth Hamilton were absolved from the scandal. James Hamilton and/

Page 111

Mary Smith to continue their appearance.

*margin note*

*Agnes Clark for fornication and John Dunbar and Elizabeth Hamilton for antenuptial fornication, rebuked and absolved*

*Jas. Hamilton and Mary Smith rebuked and to continue their appearance*

Session closed with prayer.

### **Cumnock 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1833**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith John Baird, John Gibb, John Weir, Elders.

James Hamilton and Mary Smith mentioned in our last minute appeared voluntarily before the Session and were rebuked exhorted to repentance and Mary Smith was absolved from the scandal and James Hamilton to continue his appearance.

*margin note*

*James Hamilton & Mary Smith rebuked & admonished*

*Mary Smith absolved, Hamilton to appear again*

Session closed with prayer.

### **Cumnock 30<sup>th</sup> December 1833**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Gibb, John Weir, Elders

Compeared voluntarily David Connell<sup>95</sup> shoemaker and Elizabeth Kennedy spouses in Cumnock confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. They were rebuked, exhorted to repentance and absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*

*David Connell & Eliza Kennedy for antenuptial fornication*

*rebuked and absolved*

Session closed with prayer

### **Cumnock 19<sup>th</sup> January 1834**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Gibb, John Weir, Elders

James Hamilton mentioned in our minute of the 15<sup>th</sup> December last appeared again and was rebuked, admonished and absolved.

*margin note*

*James Hamilton appears again*

*Rebuked, admonished and absolved*

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<sup>95</sup> [David Connell](#)

Sess. closed with prayer.

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**Cumnock, 27<sup>th</sup> January 1834**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith & John Gibb, Elders.

Compeared voluntarily John Robertson<sup>96</sup> and Janet Loudon spouses in Cumnock for antenuptial fornication. They were rebuked and exhorted to repentance and as this is a relapse to them both having each been guilty of fornication formerly they were ordered to continue their appearance.

At the same William Robb carrier in Cumnock ( see our minute of the 28<sup>th</sup> October last) appeared again for fornication with Agnes Trummel and being rebuked and admonished was absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*

*John Robertson & Janet Loudoun in Cumnock rebuked for antenuptial fornication. to continue their appearance  
Wm. Robb carrier in Cumnock rebuked & absolved*

Session closed with prayer

**Cumnock 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1834**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith & John Gibb, Elders.

When John Robertson and Janet Loudoun mentioned in our last minute, appeared for antenuptial fornication, and being rebuked and suitably admonished were absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*

*John Robertson & Janet Loudoun for antl. fornication, rebuked and absolved*

Session closed with prayer

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**Cumnock 30<sup>th</sup> March 1834**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith & John Gibb, Elders

Compeared voluntarily John Gemmell & Elizabeth Andrew in Cumnock confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication inter se. Also George White for antenuptial fornication with his wife Marion King who is under the scandal of adultery previous to her marriage.

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<sup>96</sup> [John Robertson](#)

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**Cumnock, 29<sup>th</sup> July 1834**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Revd. Mr. Chrystal, Moderator pro tempore, William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

John Weir<sup>97</sup>, Grocer, and Ann Boyd spouses in Cumnock, came voluntarily before the Session, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication inter se, and craving to be taken on Discipline.

The Session agree to their request, and they were accordingly rebuked, and suitably admonished, and having paid a fine of 6/8 to the poor, were absolved from the scandal.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

*John Weir & Ann Boyd for antenuptial fornication  
Rebuked & absolved*

**Cumnock 1st September 1834**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Moderator William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Thomas Rae<sup>98</sup> & Ann Stevenson now at Garlaff Coal work, formally in Kilmarnock from which they brought and produced a line transferring them for convenience to this Kirk Session for discipline for their acknowledged case of antenuptial fornication.

They were accordingly rebuked and suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal.

Where after a period Jane Edgar in Borland Mill acknowledging herself /

*antenuptial Fornication  
Rebuked & absolved*

.....  
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/pregnant in fornication with James Wilson, Farmer's son in Knockshinnock, parish of New Cumnock. The Session advise her in the first instance to bring her case before a civil Court, and get her Child affiliated on him and thereafter to appear before the Kirk Session and dismiss her for the present.

Closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Jane Edgar accuses James Wilson of fornication*

**Cumnock 29th September 1834**

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<sup>97</sup> [John Weir](#)

<sup>98</sup> [Thomas Rae](#)

Session constituted with prayer.  
Present the Moderator William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

Compeared ultraneously William Anderson<sup>99</sup> in the Lochside & Mary McGaan in Greenmill confessing themselves guilty of Antenuptial Fornication. The Session finding that Mary McGaan the Wife had come forward to the Lord's Table here last Sacrament while with Child by the above criminal connexion reprove and admonish her for the same and order them both to appear again before the Session here the 27th proximo.

*margin note*  
*Willm. Anderson & Mary McGaan*  
*appear for antenuptial fornication*  
*To appear again*

### **Cumnock 29th September 1834**

Session constituted with prayer.  
Present the Moderator Willm. Galbraith John Gibb & John Weir, Elders.

The session elected John Gibb as the Elder to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the current half year.

*margin note*  
*Presby. & Synod Elder chosen*

Compeared for antenuptial Fornication William Anderson & Mary McGaan in Greenmill Spouses and Robert Hunter in Cumnock, /

*margin note*  
*Wm. Anderson & Mary McGaan and*  
*Robert Hunter appear for antenuptial fornication*

.....  
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/ his wife Margaret Brown having yet to appear at a future period.  
The Session take them on discipline and they were accordingly rebuked and suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*  
*They are rebuked and absolved*

### **Cumnock 1st December 1834**

Session constituted with prayer.  
Present the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Gibb and John Weir Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Katherine Robertson transferred from Kilmarnock Kirk Session for fornication with John Campbell; Ann McGaan for fornication with John Crichton from whom she produced a letter of acknowledgement; and Margaret Brown for antenuptial fornication with Robert Hunter. At their request they were taken on discipline and being rebuked and admonished Margaret Brown was absolved from the scandal and the other two were ordered to continue their appearance.

Session closed with prayer

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<sup>99</sup> [William Anderson](#)

*margin note*  
*Katherine Robertson & Ann McGaan appear for fornication  
and Margaret Brown for antenuptial  
Margt. Brown is absolved the other two to continue their appearance*

See continuation of this minute next page which has been inadvertently omitted here.

**Cumnock 29th December 1834**

Session constituted with prayers

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

Compeared voluntarily John Reid & Susanna McKnight for antenuptial fornication and Ann McGaan & Katherine Robertson /

.....  
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/for fornication as mentioned in our last minute. They were rebuked and suitably admonished and were all absolved from the scandal.

**1st December omitted in its place.**

Thereafter appeared, voluntarily, Agnes Wilson<sup>100</sup>, daughter of Peter Wilson at Dumfries House, confessing herself with Child; and being seriously admonished to be ingenuous and tell the truth, she was asked who was the Father of her Child. She declared that Quintin Crawford<sup>101</sup> Grocer in Cumnock, and no other, is the Father of her Child. Interrogated when she first became acquainted with Quintin Crawford, declares it was about Seven years ago, when she was at service with him, while he resided in David Kirkland's House that on a Saturday night, she was taking into his room a Bottle of Beer for his Supper, and then, for the first time, had carnal knowledge of her – his wife having gone, the morning of that day, to Kyle, where his Brother in law, William Wilson, resided; whither he also went himself the Sabbath morning following. Declares that the same Saturday night aforesaid, Quintin Crawford came to the declarant's Bed, and had carnal connexion with her, a second time – Declares that in an Evening, same time about last New years day, about eight o'clock, Quentin Crawford met her about Mr. White's Writer in Cumnock, when they went together along the Road to/

.....  
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/Bankend, and went down the footpath through the Wood at the end of the Smithy, till they came to the New Road to Dumfries House, where they separated – that a little before they came to the New Road, he, the said Quintin Crawford, had carnal connexion with her. Declares that on Eleventh of April last, she had occasion to be in Cumnock, and that coming in by that Toll, after she had come along Glaisnock Bridge, Quintin Crawford accosted her, desiring her to call upon him before she left the Town, as he had some word to send to Mr. Crichton – that she accordingly called

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<sup>100</sup> [Agnes Wilson](#)

<sup>101</sup> [Quintin Crawford](#)

at his Shop after it was dark, and that he desired her to go away, and he would immediately be up with her, by the time she was at Mr White's – that Declarant went away, and was over-taken, at Mr. White's, by Quintin Crawford who went in company with her, down the Lead Side, and through the Green Miln Close, and up the Mill Road to Mrs. Allan's, where they parted – Declares that when they were at the Lead Side, opposite to Mr. Brown's, he had carnal connexion with her. Declares that, some months ago, she called on Quintin Crawford at his Shop, and told him she was with Child by him, when he advised her to give the Child to some other father; and on declarant's saying she had no other father than himself to give her child to, it was agreed between them that it should be given to a person of the name of James Thomson, from Glasgow, who wrought, as a Wright, at the Cumnock Kirk, and had gone/

.....  
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/to Manchester. Declares that Quintin Crawford said he would write a letter to her, as coming from this James Thomson, which he afterward did, and put it into the Post Office in Ayr, which she received some time ago, and had in her custody, although she had it not with her to-day. Declares that he promised her money to agree to this plan. Declares that on last Wednesday evening, between six and seven o'clock, she called at his Shop, and said she needed money, and that Quintin Crawford complained of the want of money, on account of the death of his son John, but that he would try to get her some, and desired Declarant to meet him at the back of Charles Crichton's house, for that purpose. Declares that she stood at the end of the Kirk and that, in about five minutes afterwards, he came out & gave her a pound note, opposite to Alexander Gibb's door, and said he would give more when he got it – declares that she sent Quintin Crawford a letter, on Thursday last, desiring him to meet her on Saturday Evening last, at Seven o'clock, at Bankend, and that when she went there, she saw four men, one of whom (Hugh Campbell Grocer) advised her to go home "for he will not be here to-night" – that when she said ^asked^ how did he know whom she waited upon, he said "whom did you write the letter?", that she said "whom do you say I wrote it to?" to which /

.....  
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/ he answered, "Quintin Crawford" – Declares that Hugh Campbell asked what she wanted with Quintin Crawford, to which she replied that she would tell Quinton himself, for who it was she wanted to see. Declares that Campbell asked if she had no other person to give her Child to, for it was a pity to give it to Quintin, when she answered she had none else to give it to. Declares that Campbell wanted her to go into Cumnock, and that he would send for Quintin – that she accordingly did go into Cumnock with Campbell, who desired her to wait at Lugar Bridge, and said he would send out Quintin to her. Declares that she stood upon Lugar Bridge a few minutes, where a man muffled up in a Black & White Plaid, came up to her and bid her go home, for that it was needless to wait, for He would not come. Declares that she said to this man that she would wait a little, and that if he did not come in five minutes, she would give it in to the Session. Declares that after waiting as she had said, no one appeared to her, and thereupon she came away all which she declares to be the truth

.....  
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**Cumnock 26th January 1835**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Gibb, & John Weir Elders.

Compeared voluntarily, David Smith<sup>102</sup>, Carrier in Cumnock, and Elisabeth Robertson, Spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial Fornication. They were a rebuked and suitably admonished, and having paid a fine to the poor, were absolved from the scandal.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

*David Smith & Elisabeth Robertson rebuked for antenl. fornication  
absolved*

**Cumnock 1st March 1835**

Session const. with prayer

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Gibb, and John Weir, Elders.

Appeared voluntarily James Kerr Servant in Mains confessing himself the father of a Child brought forth in fornication by Mary Dargavil in Sanquhar. At his request he was taken on discipline and having been rebuked & admonished was ordered to continue his appearance

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

*James Kerr reviewed for fornication  
To continue his appearance*

.....  
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**Cumnock 30 March, 1835**

Session const. with prayer

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Henry Merrie<sup>103</sup>, Blacksmith in Cumnock and Isabel Crawford his wife; and Thomas Baird, Tailor in Cumnock, and Agnes Brown, his wife – confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. They were rebuked and admonished and having paid a fine to the poor were absolved from the scandal

Session closed with prayer

*margin notes*

*Henry Merry & Isabel Crawford  
Thomas Baird & Agnes Brown  
Rebuked for antenl. fornn. and absolved*

**Cumnock 27th April 1835**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders.

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<sup>102</sup> [David Smith](#)

<sup>103</sup> [Henry Merrie](#)



Compeared voluntarily for antenuptial fornication Adam Nichol<sup>104</sup> and Mary Goodlet, Spouses, in Woodhead and James Dickie and Charlotte Lennox, Spouses, in Cumnock. They were rebuked and suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal

Session closed with prayer.

*margin notes*  
*Adam Nichol & Mary Goodlet*  
*and James Dickie & Charlotte Lennox*  
*appear for antenl. fornn. and absolved*

.....  
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**Cumnock 30 March, 1835**

Session const. with prayer

Present with the Moderator and all the Elders.

Compeared ultraneously James Connell<sup>105</sup> and Janet Dunsmore, Spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication, and craving to be taken on Discipline. They were accordingly rebuked and exhorted to repentance, and absolved from the scandal.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*  
*Jas. Connel & Jat. Dunsmore for antenl. fornication*  
*Rebuked and absolved*

.....  
**Cumnock 31st August 1835 [says 183]**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator William Galbraith John Weir and John Gibb, Elders.

Compeared voluntarily George Hamilton<sup>106</sup> Painter in Cumnock and Margaret Wood his wife confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial Fornication – also Margaret Samson in Glenhead of New Cumnock acknowledging she had brought forth a Child in fornication, accusing James Simson, formerly residing at Burnside of this parish, where she was Servant when the guilt was contracted, and producing a letter from the said James Simson<sup>107</sup> who is at present residing with his Uncle Mr. Patrick Simson, Schoolmaster, at Ochiltree, acknowledging himself the father of her Child. They were all taken on discipline rebuked and admonished and George Hamilton and his Wife were absolved from the scandal. – Margaret Samson being ordered to continue her appearance.

James Johnston the Kirk Officer/

*margin note*  
*Geo. Hamilton & Margt. Wood appear for antenl. fornication inter se –*  
*and Margaret Samson for fornication with Jas. Simson*  
*They are rebuked admonished Hamilton and Wife absolved*

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<sup>104</sup> [Adam Nichol](#)

<sup>105</sup> [James Connell](#)

<sup>106</sup> [George Hamilton](#)

<sup>107</sup> [James Simson](#)

.....  
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/of this parish having died last month the Session elect Hugh McClelland<sup>108</sup> to that office with the emoluments formerly belonging to it excepting the House and Garden, which, as they belong the Most Noble the Marquis of Bute, and were only a gratuity from his Lordship and the House of Dumfries, to the two last Officers, the Session cannot interfere with.

**Cumnock 26th October 1835**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

Margaret Samson mentioned in our last Minute made another appearance for Fornication with James Simson and having been rebuked and admonished in the usual way was absolved from the Scandal.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Margaret Samson rebuked & exhorted for Fornication and absolved from the scandal*

.....  
**Cumnock 15th November 1835**

Session constituted with prayer.

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Weir, Elders.

The Session elect John Weir, one of their number, their Elder to attend the Meetings of Presbytery and Synod for the current half year.

Session closed with prayer

*margin*

*Presbytery and Synod Elder chosen*

.....  
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**Cumnock 30th November 1835**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator and William Galbraith John Gibb and John Weir, Elders.

Appeared voluntarily, David Gibb<sup>109</sup>, confessing himself guilty of fornication with Margaret Vallance, who, at her own request, has been transferred to the Kirk Session of New Cumnock.

He was rebuked and admonished, and ordered to continue his appearance.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

*David Gibb for fornication with Margaret Vallance –  
Rebuked admonished and to continue his appearance*

**Cumnock 28th December 1835**

Session constituted with prayer

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<sup>108</sup> [Hugh McLelland](#)

<sup>109</sup> [David Gibb](#)

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

Appeared David Gibb, Boxmaker in Auchinleck, as per last minute, also John Reid or antenuptial fornication with his deceased Wife Jane Gibson. They were rebuked exhorted to repentance and absolved from the scandal.  
Session closed with prayer

*margin note*  
*David Gibb appears pro secundo for fornication &*  
*John Reid for antenuptial fornication*  
*They are rebuked admonished and absolved from the Scandal*

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### **Cumnock 1st February 1836**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present with the Moderator, John Gibb and John Weir Elders.

Appeared voluntarily Jane Edgar in Boreland Mill confessing herself guilty of Fornication with James Wilson<sup>110</sup> in Knockshinnoch parish of New Cumnock to whom she has brought forth a Child some time ago. At the same time she produced a line from Mr. Rose attesting that the case has been before the justice of Peace Court and that said John[?James] Wilson<sup>111</sup> was found to be the father of her Child. She was ordered to appear here next meeting of Session on the 29th current when John Wilson would be also cited to appear along with her.

*margin note*  
*Jane Edgar for fornication with John Wilson*  
*Both to compear next Session.*

Thereafter compeared voluntarily David Findlay<sup>112</sup> and Katherine Orr, Spouses, Glaisnock Lots, for antenuptial Fornication, and Margaret Howat<sup>113</sup>, Meadow, for fornication with Matthew Mair who is now in Southampton, from whom she produced a letter acknowledging himself the father of her Child and authorising her to satisfy the Rules of the Church and get her Child baptized.

*margin notes*  
*David Findlay & Katherine Orr for antl. fornn*  
*& Margaret Howat for fornn. with Matthew Mair*  
*Rebuked and admonished Findlay & Orr absolved*  
*Margaret Howat to continue her appearance*

They were all three rebuked and admonished the Husband and Wife being absolved from the scandal and Margaret Howat is ordered to continue her appearance.  
Session closed with prayer

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### **Cumnock 29th February 1836**

Session constituted with prayer

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<sup>110</sup> ? [James Wilson](#) in Knockshinnoch

<sup>111</sup> It's James Wilson on the child Jane's baptism – 30 May 1836

<sup>112</sup> [David Findlay](#)

<sup>113</sup> [Margaret Howat](#)

Present with the Moderator, John Gibb and John Weir, Elders.

Compeared, as per last Minute, Margaret Howat and Jane Edgar. John [James?] Wilson was called, but did not appear. – He is ordered to be cited again to appear the 28th March.

*margin*  
*John [James?] Wilson fails to appear*

Margaret Howat and Jane Edgar were rebuked and admonished, when the former was absolved from the scandal, and the latter ordered to appear again this day month, being the 28th of next month.

Session closed with prayer

*margin*  
*Margt. Howat rebuked & absolved*  
*Jane Edgar rebuked & to continue her appearance*

### **Cumnock 28th March 1836**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith John Gibb, Elders.

Appeared Jane Edgar as per last minute. She was rebuked, suitably admonished, and absolved from the scandal.

*margin*  
*Jane Edgar rebuked and absolved*

James Wilson in Knockshinnoch, of New Cumnock, was called, the Execution of Summary produced from the Kirk Officer of his parish, and failing to appear, he was ordered to be summoned pro tertio, with certification, to appear before the session here at their meeting the 25th April next.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*  
*James Wilson failing to appear to be cited pro tertio*

.....  
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### **Cumnock 25th April 1836**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator and William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders.

The execution of Summons against James Wilson in Knockshinnoch, was produced from New Cumnock, and he was three times called, but did not appear. The Session delay, for a time, to summon him before the Presbytery for contumacy, (he having resisted three citations,) to see if he will come to a better mind.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*  
*James Wilson called but does not appear*  
*Proceedings suspended*

### **Cumnock 30th May 1836**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator & W. Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

Compeared voluntarily James Hodge and Jane Gibson, Spouses; George Hutchison and Mary MacMillan, Spouses; and Walter Fergusson<sup>114</sup> and Margaret MacKerrow, Spouses; all confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial Fornication. They were rebuked, exhorted to repentance and absolved from the scandal.

*margin note*  
*Compear for antenl. fornn. Jas. Hodge & Jane Gibson*  
*George Hutchison & Mary McMillan*  
*Walter Ferguson & Margt. McKerrow*  
*Rebuked & absolved*

Thereafter appeared Mary Roxburgh<sup>115</sup> at Logan Bridge acknowledging she had brought forth a Child in fornication and accusing William Campbell in Cumnock as the father of it at the same time producing a letter from said William Campbell admitting himself the father /

*margin note*  
*Mary Roxburgh accuses Willm. Campbell of Fornn. –*  
*The case is delayed for a time*

.....  
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/as charged. She wishes to be taken on discipline and restored to Church privileges; but as William Campbell is so notorious a character the Session think proper to delay proceeding the case at present  
Session closed with prayer

### **Cumnock 8th August 1836**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator and William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

Appeared again Mary Roxburgh in Holmhead for fornication with William Campbell as stated in our last Minute. The Session considering it a hardship that she should be any longer shut out from the church on account of the character of W. Campbell agree to take her on discipline and she was accordingly rebuked and suitably admonished and thereafter from the scandal.

*margin note*  
*Mary Roxburgh rebuked and absolved*

Compeared voluntarily Charles Hunter<sup>116</sup> and Janet McCowan confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. Agreeably to their request they were taken on discipline and being rebuked and admonished in common form were absolved from the scandal.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

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<sup>114</sup> [Walter Fergusson](#)

<sup>115</sup> [Mary Roxburgh](#)

<sup>116</sup> [Charles Hunter](#)

*Chas. Hunter & Janet McCowen appear for antenuptial fornication – rebuked and absolved*

.....  
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**Cumnock 29th August, 1836**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

Appeared voluntarily Hugh Findlay for Fornication with Cochran Fergusson<sup>117</sup> who died in Childbed. As he resides in the parish of Auchinleck at Lugar Bridge and he produced a line from the Kirk Session of that parish empowering the Session of Cumnock to take him on Discipline. He was therefore rebuked and suitably admonished and ordered to continue his appearance  
Closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Hugh Findlay appears for fornication with Cochran Ferguson  
He is rebuked and to continue his appearance*

**Cumnock 28th November 1836**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

Appeared voluntarily James Crawford and Isabel Tosh confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be taken on discipline and restored for the privileges of the Church. They were accordingly rebuked and suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal

*margin note*

*Jas. Crawford & Isobel Tosh appear for antenuptial Fornn.  
Rebuked admonished & absolved*

The Session elect John Gibb as their Elder to attend the meetings of the Presbytery and Synod for the current half year.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Presby. & Synod Elder chosen*

.....  
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**Cumnock 29 May 1837**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

Appeared voluntarily John McCowan<sup>118</sup> and Anne<sup>119</sup> Crichton Spouses residing at Caponacre confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial Fornication and craving to be taken on the discipline and restored to the privileges of the Church. The Session agree to the request and after being reviewed to and admonished they were absolved from the Scandal.

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<sup>117</sup> [Cochrane Ferguson](#)

<sup>118</sup> [John McCowan](#)

<sup>119</sup> should be Elizabeth

Closed with prayer

*margin note*  
*John McCowan & Ann Crichton for antenuptial fornication I rebuked and absolved from the Scandal*

**Cumnock 28th July 1837**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

John Collins<sup>120</sup> appeared voluntarily confessing himself guilty of Antenuptial Fornication with Janet Pearson his wife and craving to be taken on discipline and restored who is the privileges of the Church. The Session agree to his request and he was therefore rebuked and suitably admonished and absolved from the Scandal  
Closed with prayer

.....  
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**Cumnock 29th August 1837**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders.

James Findlay<sup>121</sup> and Jane McKerrow Spouses came voluntarily before the Session confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial Fornication and craving to be taken on discipline and restored to the privileges of the Church. The Session agree to their request and they were rebuked, exhorted to repentance and absolved from the Scandal.

*margin note*  
*Jas. Findlay & Jane McKerrow for antenuptial fornication rebuked, admonished and absolved*

Thereafter appeared Ann Stillie<sup>122</sup> in the Town of Cumnock confessing that she had brought forth a Child in fornication on the 4th of April last and accusing James Torrance<sup>123</sup>, Weaver in Cumnock as the father of it. She was cited apud acta to appear before the Session at their next monthly meeting and the Officer was ordered to someone that said James Torrance to appear at the same time to answer to the charge.

Closed with prayer

*margin note*  
*Ann Stillie accuses James Torrance*

.....  
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**Cumnock 30 October 1837**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator William Galbraith John Gibb & John Weir Elders.

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<sup>120</sup> [John Collins](#)

<sup>121</sup> [James Findlay](#)

<sup>122</sup> [Ann Stillie](#)

<sup>123</sup> ?[James Torrance](#)

Appeared Ann Stillie as per last minute. James Torrance having been duly summoned and called appeared not. Whereupon the Session order him to be cited pro secundo to appear before them at their next monthly meeting and Ann Stillie was cited apud acta to appear along with him  
Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Ann Stillie & James Torrance cited to appear next meeting of Session*

**Cumnock 30 October 1837**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator and William Galbraith, John Gibb, & John Weir, Elders.

James Torrance having been duly summoned agreeably to the order of last Minute, was called but appeared not. The Session delay for their proceeding with his case for the present, as it is likely soon to come before a civil court of law.

*margin note*

*Jas. Torrance does not appear.*

*His case to lie over*

They elect the above William Galbraith as their elder to attend the meeting of the presbytery & Synod for the present half year  
Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Presby. & Synod Elder chosen*

.....  
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**Cumnock 1 January 1838**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present the Moderator, William Galbraith John Gibb & John Weir Elders.

Compeared ultraneously for antenuptial Fornication, James McKerrow and Janet McClanahan in Garlaff, John Murphy and Margaret Templeton in Cumnock, and Janet Pearson wife of John Collins, he having appeared before as per Minute of the 18th July last.

Being taken upon discipline at their request, they were rebuked, suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Jas. McKerrow & Janet McClanahan*

*John Murphy & Margt. Templeton*

*also Janet Pearson appear for antenuptial Fornication*

**Cumnock 29 January 1838**

Session constituted with prayer  
Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders.



Appeared voluntarily, Cochran White<sup>124</sup> in Cumnock, confessing himself to have been guilty of Fornication with Agnes McClelland, and craving to be purchased of the scandal.

The Session agree to his request, and being taken on Discipline, he was rebuked and admonished, and ordered to continue his appearance.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Cochran White for fornication with Agnes McClelland rebuked & admonished – to continue his appearance*

.....  
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**Cumnock 26th February 1838**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb Elders.

When Cochran White, mentioned in last minute, appeared pro secundo for Fornication, and being rebuked and admonished was absolved from the scandal. Having been guilty of antenuptial Fornication also he is ordered to make an appearance, along with his wife, for that offence, before they be admitted to church privileges.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Cochran White rebuked for fornication absolved*

**Cumnock 26th March 1838**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator, John Gibb and John Weir Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Cochran White with his wife Agnes McClelland and John Richmond with his wife Elisabeth Richmond residents in Cumnock, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial Fornication and craving to be taken on discipline and restored to the privileges of the Church. The session agreed to their request and they were accordingly rebuked and exhorted to repentance and absolved from the scandal

*margin note*

*Cochran White & Agnes McLelland, John Richmond & Elisabeth Richmond rebuked for antenuptial fornication and absolved*

.....  
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**Cumnock 15th April, 1838**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith, John Gibb, and John Weir, Elders.

The Session elect the above John Weir, their Elder to attend the meetings of Presbytery and Synod, for the current half year.

Closed with prayer

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<sup>124</sup> [CochranBell, John White](#)

**Cumnock 30th April, 1838**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Hugh Findlay, for fornication with Cochran Fergusson; James Matthies<sup>125</sup>, for fornication with Agnes Clark; Isabel McKenzie, for fornication with John Bell<sup>126</sup>; and John Baird and Agnes Weir for antenuptial Fornication. They were all rebuked and exhorted to repentance, and the two first of these persons having made a former appearance, were all absolved from the scandal, except Isabel McKenzie, who is to make a second appearance.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Hugh Findlay, James Matthies, John Baird, Agnes Weir rebuked and absolved Isabel McKenzie rebuked and to continue her appearance*

.....  
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**Cumnock, 5th July, 1838**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith & John Gibb, Elders.

Compeared voluntarily Hugh Findlay<sup>127</sup> & Agnes McClanahan, John Nichol<sup>128</sup> and Grace Gordon Begg, all residing in the town of Cumnock, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial Fornication, and craving to be purged from the scandal.

The session agree to their request, and they were accordingly rebuked & exhorted to repentance, and absolved from the scandal of their offence.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Hugh Findlay & Agnes McClanahan, John Nichol & Agnes [Grace] G. Begg for antenuptial Fornication rebuked, exhorted and absolved*

**Cumnock, 13 August 1838**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith & John Gibb Elders.

Appeared Isabel McKenzie<sup>129</sup> in Little Auchingibbert, for Fornication with John Bell<sup>130</sup> in Boylston, as per the minute of the 30th April last – she was rebuked, suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Isabel McKenzie for fornication with John Bell rebuked and absolved*

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<sup>125</sup> [James Mathieson](#)

<sup>126</sup> [John Bell](#)

<sup>127</sup> [Hugh Findlay](#)

<sup>128</sup> [John Nichol](#)

<sup>129</sup> [Isabel McKenzie](#)

<sup>130</sup> [John Bell](#)

**Cumnock 1st October 1838**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith & John Gibb Elders.

Appeared voluntarily James Crichton in Hill confessing himself to have been guilty of fornication with Mary Young in Stairmount who is of the anti-burgher persuasion. At his request he was taken on discipline and being rebuked and exhorted to repentance, he was ordered to continue his appearance.

Session closed with prayer

*margin note*

*Jas.Crichton in Hill for fornication with*

*Mary Young in Stairmount rebuked and to continue his appearance.*

**Cumnock 29<sup>th</sup> October 1838**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith & John Gibb Elders.

Compeared to James Crichton as mentioned in last minute. He was rebuked and admonished and absolved from the scandal.

Thereafter appeared voluntarily Marion Smith confessing herself to have been guilty of Fornication with Hugh Wyllie servant in Dalgig in parish of New Cumnock. The Session knowing that Wylie has acknowledged the guilt and is providing for the child that is/

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the fruit of their illicit connexion, take her upon discipline at her request and she was rebuked and exhorted to repentance and summoned apud acta to appear again before the Session at their next meeting on the 26th of November.

Also instruct the Clerk to write to the session of New Cumnock to cause Hugh Wylie be summoned to appear again at the same time.

Session closed with prayer.

*Margin note*

*Jas. Crichton rebuked and absolved. .Marion Smith rebuked for fornication with Hugh Wyllie in Dalgig. They are both to appear before the next Session in November*

**Cumnock 26<sup>th</sup> November 1838**

Session constituted with prayer

Present with the Moderator, William Galbraith & John Gibb Elders.

When Hugh Wyllie who was duly summoned did not appear Marion Smith appeared a second time. Also appeared voluntarily James Wilson<sup>131</sup> and Marion Weir in Glasnock Lots and George Blythe<sup>132</sup> and Janet McCowan in Cumnock confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial Fornication, Being taken on discipline at their request they were all rebuked and suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal.

*Margin note*

*Marion Smith for fornication,*

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<sup>131</sup> [James Wilson](#)

<sup>132</sup> [George Blythe](#)

*Jas. Wilson and Marion Weir,  
George Blythe and Janet McCowan for  
antenuptial fornication are rebuked and absolved*

Session closed with prayer.

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**Cumnock 17th May 1839<sup>133</sup>**

The Kirk Session met and was constituted with prayer. Present the Moderator, John Gibb, John Weir & William Galbraith, Elders

The Session unanimously elected Mr John MacKinnel<sup>134</sup> parish schoolmaster to the office of Session Clerk - during good behaviour - the late clerk having resigned.

The Session having taken into consideration the propriety of adding the number of elders in this parish & being persuaded of the good behaviour of Messrs James Baird<sup>135</sup> of Polquawap and John Mackie in Bouton unanimously made choice of the above persons to be Members of this Kirk Session and appoint their ordination to take place in presence of the congregation on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June next. They likewise appoint an edict to this effect to be served on Sabbath first the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June next & intimation to be made to the people that if they have any objections to state that why the above named persons should not be ordained to the Eldership they will have an opportunity of doing so at a meeting of Session to be held for this purpose on the said 20<sup>th</sup> day of June next previous to the commencement of Public worship in the forenoon.

Closed with prayer

**Cumnock 20th June 1839**

The Session met and was constituted. Present the Moderator and Messrs. John Weir, John Gibb and William Galbraith, Elders.

The session having convened for the purpose of hearing any objections against the ordination of Messrs James Baird and John Mackie to the eldership/

.....

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The Moderator stated that their edict had been duly served, no objections being offered it was agreed in terms of the former resolution that the ordination of the said persons be proceeded on. The Session adjourned to meet after [?] Service.

Closed with prayer.

The Session met, according to adjournment. In accordance with former resolution and Moderator did, after sermon, put to Messrs. James Baird and John Mackie the

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<sup>133</sup> new handwriting, new session clerk

<sup>134</sup> [John MacKinnel](#)

<sup>135</sup> [James Baird](#)

question appointed to be put to persons before the Ordination to the Eldership; & they having given satisfactory answers to the same, he did by solemn prayer to Almighty God set apart said Messrs. James Baird and John Mackie to the Office of the Eldership: after which they and the People were severally addified [sic] on their respective duties.

Messrs. James Baird & John Mackie now present received the right hand of fellowship from the other members of Session and their names for our church to be added to the roll, thereafter they signed the formula  
Closed with prayer.

*Margin note*  
*James Baird & John Mackie elected elders*

Cumnock 1<sup>st</sup> July 1839

Session constituted with Prayer. Present the Moderator and Messrs. John Gibb and Will. Galbraith and John Mackie, Elders.

Compeared for the second time Alexander Ferguson and Marion Young for fornication. They were/

.....  
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rebuked, suitably admonished & absolved from the scandal.

*Margin note*  
*Alexr. Ferguson and Marion Young*  
*for fornication, rebuked & absolved*

Session closed with prayer

### **Cumnock 2nd December 1839**

Session constituted with Prayer. Present the Moderator with Messrs. John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, Elders.

Compeared Daniel McLachlan<sup>136</sup> & Elizabeth McCrae for antenuptial fornication. They were both rebuked and suitably admonished. She was hten absolved from the scandal but he having come forward to the Lord's Table while in this state of fornication was desired to make another appearance.

Closed with prayer.

*Margin note*  
*Daniel McLachlan and Elizabeth McCrae for antenuptial fornication*  
*She absolved, he to make another appearance*

### **Cumnock 4<sup>th</sup> February 1840**

Session constituted with Prayer. Present the Moderator with John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, Elders.

Compeared John Gibb for ante-nuptial fornication with aggrations [sic] In last minutes. He was rebuked, suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal.

*Margin note*  
*Daniel McLachlan absolved*

Closed with prayer

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<sup>136</sup> [Daniel McLachlan](#)

### **Cumnock 1 June 1840**

Session constituted with Prayer. Present the Moderator with Messrs. John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, Elders.

Compeared voluntarily James McGlashan<sup>137</sup> and Jean Murdoch confessing themselves guilty of ante-nuptial fornication and Marion Cooper<sup>138</sup> in Mossend stating she is with child by Edward Smith which he has privately acknowledged. McGlashan and Murdoch are rebuked, suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal. Cooper was summoned apud *acta* to appear at next meeting of Session and the officer was ordered to summon Edward Smith to attend the same. Closed with prayer.

*Margin note*

*Jas. McGlashan & Jean Murdoch for ante-nuptl. fornication, rebuked & absolved. Marion Cooper confessing herself guilty of fornication with Edward Smith. Both to appear next Session*

### **Cumnock 30<sup>th</sup> June 1841**

Session constituted with Prayer. Present the Moderator with John Gibb, Will. Galbraith and John Weir, Elders

Compeared Edward Smith and Marion Cooper for fornication. He acknowledged the truth of the statement made by her at last meeting of Session. See the minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. They were rebuked, suitably admonished and told to make another appearance.

Session closed with prayer.

*Margin note*

*Edward Smith rebuked for fornication with Marion Cooper, who was also rebuked*

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### **Cumnock 16 August 1840**

Session constituted with Prayer.

Present the Moderator with John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, Elders

Compeared Edward Smith and Marion Cooper for fornication pro secundo and Jane Adeline Boyd wife of Will. Hair<sup>139</sup> Junr. who belongs to the Secession Congregation here for ante-nuptial fornication. They were all rebuked, suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal.

Closed with prayer

*Margin note*

*Edward Smith & Marion Cooper for fornication  
Jane Adeline Boyd for ante-nuptl. fornication  
They are all rebuked and absolved*

### **Cumnock 28<sup>th</sup> September 1840**

Session constituted with Prayer.

Present the Moderator with John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, Elders

Compeared Jean Wilson<sup>140</sup> confessing herself to have brought forth child in fornication to Andrew Edgar now dead. She was rebuked, admonished to repentance and directed to appear again.

Closed with prayer.

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<sup>137</sup> [James McGlashan](#)

<sup>138</sup> [Marion Cooper](#)

<sup>139</sup> [William Hair](#)

<sup>140</sup> [Jean Wilson](#)

*Margin note*  
*Jean Wilson for fornication with Andrew Edgar lately dead*

**Cumnock 26<sup>th</sup> October 1840**

Session constituted with Prayer.

Present the Moderator with John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, Elders

Compeared Jean Wilson mentioned in the minute of the 20<sup>th</sup> ult. for fornication with the late Andrew Edgar. She was rebuked, suitably admonished and absolved form the scandal.

*Margin note*  
*Jean Wilson for fornication rebuked and absolved*

.....

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**Cumnock 1st February 1841**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator with John Gibb and Wm Galbraith, Elders

Compeared Janet Gilfillan<sup>141</sup> in Cumnock declaring herself to have been guilty of fornication with Henry Neil at present serving in Auchengilsie – and that she is in consequence pregnant by him. She is directed to appear again at next meeting of Session and the Officer is ordered to summon him to attend the same meeting in order to answer to the charge.

*Margin note*  
*Janet Gilfillan accuses Henry Neil of fornication with her.*  
*Both to compear next meeting*

Compeared also William Mckerrow<sup>142</sup> and Agnes Bryan for antenuptial fornication. And Agnes Patrick<sup>143</sup> for fornication with Thomas Welsh in Cumbernauld from whom she produced a line in which he acknowledges the guilt that he will take the child which is the fruit of their intercourse. She is rebuked and admonished to repentance. McKerrow and Bryan are rebuked, suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal.

Closed with prayer

*Margin note*  
*William Mckerrow Agnes Bryan antenuptl.*  
*fornication, rebuked absolved*  
*Agnes Patrick - fornication rebuked to appear again*

**Cumnock 5<sup>th</sup> April 1841**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator with John Gibb and Will Galbraith, Elders

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<sup>141</sup> [Janet Gilfillan](#)

<sup>142</sup> Can't find any records for a couple with these names. Think it may be William McKerrow and Elizabeth Bryson who had a daughter in May 1841 having married in December 1840

<sup>143</sup> [Agnes Patrick](#)

Compeared Catherine Lang stating that she had borne a child in fornication to John McLintock shoemaker in Kilmarnock. She produced a line from him in which he acknowledges himself the father of said child.

*Margin note*  
*Catherine Lang appears for fornication with John McLintock*

.....

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Also Helen McMath<sup>144</sup> accusing Charles Crichton, baker in Cumnock, of having been guilty of fornication with her and the father of her child.

And Margaret Wilson<sup>145</sup> or widow Bone for fornication with John Goldie tailor in Cumnock. The Justice of Peace Court having decided that he is the father of her child.

Compeared also Agnes Patrick pro secundo for fornication with John [sic]<sup>146</sup> Welsh see minute of 1<sup>st</sup> February last

*Margin note*  
*Helen McMath accuses Chas. Crichton of fornication*  
*Margt Wilson appears for fornication with John Goldie*  
*And Agnes Patrick with John Welsh*  
*also David Mitchell with Janet Ingram*

And David Mitchell for fornication with Janet. He was in this parish at the time the guilt was contracted but is now in Auchinleck.

David Mitchell and Agnes Patrick were rebuked, suitably admonished and she was absolved but he was directed to make another appearance.

Closed with prayer.

*Margin note*  
*Mitchell & Patrick are rebuked, admonished,*  
*She is absolved he to appear again*

### **Cumnock 27 April 1841**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator with John Gibb and James Baird, Elders

Compeared Janet Gilfillan and Henry Neil. She repeated her accusation of him as having been guilty with her of fornication & being the father of her child. This he denied and the Session agreed to allow the matter as far as regards the paternity of the child, to be decided by the Civil Court.

*Margin note*  
*Janet Gilfillan and Henry Neil compear*  
*She renews her accusation of him*

Compeared also David Mitchell pro secundo for fornication with Janet Ingram. He was rebuked, suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal.

*Margin note*  
*He denies the charge. The matter is left to the Civil Court*  
*David Mitchell for fornication with Janet Ingram rebuked and absolved.*

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<sup>144</sup> [Helen McMath](#)

<sup>145</sup> [Margaret Wilson](#)

<sup>146</sup> should be [Thomas Welsh](#), John is the son



.....  
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**Cumnock 31 May 1841**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, with John Gibb and Will Galbraith Elders

Compeared Helen McMath for fornication who produced a letter from Mr Robert Crawford writer in Cumnock stating that Charles Crichton (see the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> of April last) has in presence of Mr Allason of Glasnock, Mr White Writer in Cumnock and the said Mr Crawford, acknowledged himself to be the Father of her child.

Also Janet Gilfillan (mentioned in last minute and in that of the 1st Feby:- for fornication with Henry Neil mentioned in the same minute. He having at last in the presence of John Gibb, Elder and William Black, Wright in Cumnock, privately admitted the truth of her accusation.

The above Helen McMath<sup>147</sup> and Janet Gilfillan were then taken under discipline, rebuked, admonished to repentance and directed to make another appearance.  
Closed with prayer.

*Margin note*  
*Compeared Helen McMath for fornication with Chas. Crichton*  
*and Janet Gilfillan for the same with Henry Neil*  
*They are rebuked admonished and ordered to appear again*

**Cumnock 19 Jun 1841**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, with John Gibb, Will. Galbraith, John Weir, James Baird and John Mackie, Elders

Compeared Helen McMath for fornication with Charles Crichton -and Janet Gilfillan for the same with Henry Neil, both pro secundo, also Margaret Wilson for the/  
.....

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/ the same with John Goldie. Helen McMath and Janet Gilfillan were rebuked, suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal. Margaret Wilson was rebuked admonished to repentance and directed to make another appearance.

Closed with prayer

*Margin note*  
*Helen McMath, Janet Gilfillan, Margt. Wilson for fornication*  
*Are all rebuked. McMath Gilfillan absolved, Wilson to appear again.*

**Cumnock 17<sup>th</sup> July 1841**

Session constituted with prayer

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<sup>147</sup> [Helen McMath](#)

Present the Moderator, with John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, Elders

Compeared Margaret Wilson for fornication with John Goldie. She was rebuked, suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal.

Closed with prayer

*Margin note  
Margt. Wilson for fornication  
rebuked & absolved*

### **Cumnock 7<sup>th</sup> November 1841**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, with John Gibb, Will. Galbraith, and James Baird, Elders

The Session made choice of the above James Baird who is a bona fide acting Elder as their representation at Presbytery and Synod for this half-year.

Closed with prayer.

*Margin note  
Presbytery & Synod Elder chosen*

.....  
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### **Cumnock 27<sup>th</sup> December 1841**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, with John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, Elders

Compeared Margaret McCron<sup>148</sup> in Skairs accusing Adam Mackie in Bouton as the father of the child that she brought forth lately in uncleanness and that it is since dead. And Mary Sloss in Cumnock accusing John Robb Junr. also in Cumnock as having been guilty of fornication with her and of being the father of the child with which she is now pregnant.

Also Mary Young in Cairns, stating that in March last she brought forth in fornication a child and that John Lang is the father of it. She produced a line from the said John Lang collier in Cumnock in which he acknowledges himself to be the father of it.

Closed with prayer.

*Margin note  
Margaret McCrone, Mary Sloss and Mary Young  
accuse Adam Mackie, John Robb and John Lange*

### **Cumnock 31 Jan 1842**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, with John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, Elders

Compeared John Gallacher and his wife Mary Lammie, confessing themselves to be guilty of antenuptial fornication & craving to be taken under discipline. Also Mary Young for fornication with John Lang – see minutes of last meeting./

*Margin note  
Compear John Gallacher and Mary Lammie for antenuptial fornication  
Mary Young for fornication with John Lange*

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<sup>148</sup> [Margaret McCron](#)

.....  
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Compeared also Margaret McCron Who repeated her accusation against Adam Mackie as guilty with her of fornication as the father of her deceased child. He, being present, admitted the truth of said charge.

*Margin note*

*Margaret McCron and Adam Mackie for fornication*

They are all rebuked and suitably admonished. John Gallacher and Mary Lammie are absolved from the scandal of their offence. Mary Young, Margt. McCron and Adam Mackie are directed to make another appearance.  
Closed with prayer

*Margin note*

*They are all rebuked & admonished*

*Gallacher and Lammie absolved*

*Young, McCron and Mackie to appear again*

### **Cumnock 29 March 1842**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, with John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, Elders

Compeared Adam Mackie in Bouton and Margaret McCron in Skairs for fornication with each other and Mary Young in Cairns for fornication with John McLintock shoemaker in Kilmarnock – see the minute of April 5th 1841. McLintock is now married to another woman but was unmarried at the time the guilt with Catherine Lang was contracted.

They were all rebuked and suitably admonished.

*Margin note*

*Adam Mackie and Margt McCron for fornication inter se.*

*Mary Young for fornication with John Lang*

*and Catherine Lang for same with John McLintock  
are rebuked*

Adam Mackie/  
.....

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/Adam Mackie, Margaret McCron and Mary Young are absolved from their offences  
Catherine Lang is directed to make another appearance

Closed with prayer

*Margin note*

*Mackie, McCron & Young are absolved.*

*Lang to appear another time*

### **Cumnock 25<sup>th</sup> April 1842**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, with John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, Elders

Compeared Catherine Lang for fornication with John McLintock pro secundo, Also James Douglas<sup>149</sup> and Elisabeth Ferguson confessing themselves to be guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be taken under discipline. They were all rebuked, suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal of their offences.

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<sup>149</sup> [James Douglas](#)

*Margin note*  
*Catherine Lang for fornication with John McLintock, and James Douglas & Elisabeth Ferguson for antenuptial fornication*  
*Rebuked and absolved*

**Cumnock 28<sup>th</sup> June 1842**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, , with John Gibb, Will. Galbraith, John Weir and John Mackie, Elders

Compeared John Flinn<sup>150</sup>, saddler in Cumnock, and Isabella Latta, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be taken under discipline.

They were rebuked, suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal

Closed with prayer.

*Margin Note*  
*John Flinn and Isabella Latta for antenuptial fornication*  
*Rebuked and absolved*

.....  
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**Cumnock 29<sup>th</sup> August 1842**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, with John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, Elders

Compeared Mary Murphy<sup>151</sup> in Thomerston, stating that she had, in May last, brought forth a child in uncleanness and that Charles McAlister in Slidery, parish of Kilmory, Arran is the father of the same. She also produced a document attested by Archd. McCowan & John Gibb, both in Cumnock & signed by Chas. McAlister in which he acknowledges himself to be the father of said child & agrees to pay a certain alimnt for the same. She was rebuked, admonished to repentance and order to make another appearance.

Closed with prayer

*Margin Note*  
*Mary Murphy for fornication with Chas. McAlister*  
*rebuked & admonished*

Copy of the Assembly's Act

Anent the Eldership

Edinburgh 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1842

The General Assembly on the Report of the Committee for Classing Returns to Overtures, having found that the Overture anent the Eldership has received the approbation of a Majority of the Presbyteries of the Church, did and hereby do enact the said overture into a standing law of the Church as follows:-

1 that when a Kirk Session shall have/

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/have resolved upon an addition to the number of Elders in the Sain\*, the Minister shall publicly intimate from the pulpit, after Divine Service on the Lord's day that an appointment of additional Elders has been resolved upon and shall also intimate the

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<sup>150</sup> [John Flinn](#)

<sup>151</sup> [Mary Murphy](#)

number which is to be added; and he shall certify the whole male communicants of the congregation, that on the third Lord's day thereafter, they shall give in lists of such members of the Congregation, being Communicants and of full age, as they would choose for the office of the Eldership, the number of names in each list being required to be as near as may be one half more than the number proposed, as for instances sit? when four Elders are to be appointed , the Session being at liberty if they see fit to suggest the names of such persons as they may deem meet for thr office, for the consideration of the Communicants, and the Minister shall repeapt the intimation on the two following Lord's days , giving such exhortation as he shall deem necessary.

[continues at length in the same vein]

.....  
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**Cumnock 27<sup>th</sup> September 1842**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator, with John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, Elders

Compeared James Kennedy<sup>152</sup> and Jean Vallance spouses acknowledging themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving/

.....  
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/craving to be taken under discipline. They were accordingly rebuked, admonished to repentance and absolved from the scandal.

*Margin Note*  
*Jas Kennedy & Jean Vallance for antenuptial fornication rebuked & absolved*

Compeared also Elisabeth Dalzell<sup>153</sup> at present in New Cumnock accusing William Mackie in Bouton of having been guilty with her of the sin of fornication, and of being the father of the child with which she is in consequence thereof, at present pregnant. She was serving at Bouton this last half year and during that period the guilt was contracted. She states that she has thrice told the said William Mackie of her condition and charged him with being the Father of her child but that he obstinately perseveres in denying the charge.

Another woman having brought a similar accusation against William Mackie before the Session of Auchinleck which he persisted in refuting even after the Civil Court had decided the matter against him and he still obstinately continuing under scandal for that case. The Session thought it best for the said Elizabeth Dalzell to take her case before the Civil Court and have the matter insofar as regards the paternity of the child decided there.

Closed with prayer.

*Margin Note*  
*Elis. Dalzell accuses William Mackie of fornication*

.....  
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**Cumnock 31<sup>st</sup> October 1842**

Session constituted with prayer

Present the Moderator with John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, Elders

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<sup>152</sup> [James Kennedy](#)

<sup>153</sup> [Elizabeth Dalziel](#)

Compeared Robert Baird and Marion Lammie spouses confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be taken under discipline. Also Mary Murphy mentioned in the minute of 29 August last for fornication with Charles McAlister pro secundo. Likewise John Patrick in Cumnock for fornication with Wallace Gilfillan or widow Baird. She is now his wife but bore him a child in uncleanness & besides this they are also guilty of antenuptial fornication. He was taken under discipline for the first case, that of fornication. The parties were all rebuked and suitably admonished. Robert Baird, Marion Lammie, and Mary Murphy were then absolved from the scandal of their offences. John Patrick was directed to appear again.

*Margin Note*

*Robt. Baird & Marion Lammie for antenuptial fornication*

*Mary Murphy for fornication with Chas. McAlister*

*John Patrick for fornication with Wallace Gilfillan*

*All rebuked and admonished.*

*Baird, Lammie, Murphy absolved. John Patrick to appear pro secundo*

The Session then elected the foresaid John Gibb who is a bona fide acting Elder in this Parish to represent them in meetings of the Presbytery and Synod for the current half-year.

Closed with prayer

*Margin Note*

*Presbytery and Synod Elder elected*

.....  
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**Cumnock 27 Nov 1842**

Session constituted with prayer

Present John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, Elders with the Rev Mr Chrystal of Auchinleck Moderator P.T. in the absence of Mr Bannatyne

Compeared Charles McAlister mentioned in the minutes of Augt. 29<sup>th</sup> & Oct 31<sup>st</sup> for fornication with Mary Murphy also mentioned in the same minutes. He was rebuked, suitably admonished and directed to make another appearance.

Closed with prayer.

*Margin Note*

*Chas McAlister for fornication with Mary Murphy*

*rebuked, admonished, to appear again*

**Cumnock 26 December 1842**

Session met & was constituted with prayer

Sederunt the Moderator with John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, James Baird & John Mackie, Elders

Compeared John Patrick for fornication with Wallace Gilfillan, second appearance for the first case. He was rebuked, suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal in so far as regards said case.

Closed with prayer.

*Margin Note*

*John Patrick for fornication with Wallace Gilfillan – 1<sup>st</sup> case*

*rebuked, admonished & absolved*

**Cumnock 4<sup>th</sup> January 1843**

Session met & was constituted with prayer  
Sederunt the Moderator with John Gibb and Will. Galbraith, Elders  
The Session has received a letter from the Session Clerk/  
.....

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/Clerk of Ayr stating that Jean Milligan or widow Milligan had appeared before the Kirk Session of Ayr and had accused Jas. Semple<sup>154</sup>, Nailor at present residing here, as having been guilty with her of the sin of fornication and requesting this Session to ascertain whether Semple acknowledges the guilt. Semple was in consequence cited to appear at their meeting which he did, said letter being read to him. He was admonished to speak the truth & was asked what he had to say to the charge upon which he declared himself to be altogether innocent as regards the matter.  
Closed with prayer.

*Margin Note*  
*John Semple for fornication with*  
*Jean Milligan in Ayr. He denies the charge*

### **Cumnock 30th January 1843**

Session met & was constituted with prayer  
Sederunt the Moderator with John Gibb, Will. Galbraith, & John Weir, Elders

Compeared ultraneously Margaret Bell in Boylston, who accused William Lamont<sup>155</sup> Farmer in Stonepark as the father of the child that she gave birth to some time ago. She was cited apud acta to appear at next meeting of Session & the Clerk was ordered to cause Lamont to be summoned to attend the same.

*Margin Note*  
*Margt. Bell accuses Will. Lamont of fornication*

Also John Patrick for fornication with Wallace Gilfillan (now his wife) first appearance for the second case, also one of fornication and not of antenuptial fornication as was stated, by mistake, in the minute of the/  
.....

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**31<sup>st</sup> October 1842**, for both of the children were born before the marriage of the parties. He was rebuked, suitably admonished, and ordered to appear a second time.

Closed with prayer.

*margin note*  
*John Patrick appeared for fornication with Wallace Gilfillan*  
*second case*  
*He is rebuked & admonished*

### **Cumnock 12 February 1843**

Session met & was constituted with prayer  
Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders

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<sup>154</sup> Jas. in body of text, John in margin note

<sup>155</sup> not sure if it is the father or the son [William Lamont](#)

Compeared Wilhelmina Ramage till lately in Cumnock, confessing herself guilty of fornication; & to be pregnant as a consequence thereof & accusing James Wyllie in Auchinleck, as the father of the child. She at the same time produced a line from Wyllie of which the following is a copy:- This is to certify that I take that child given to me by Wilhelmina Ramage as mine, as far as I know. James Wyllie, Auchinleck As she has gone to reside with her father in Symington, the Session agreed to allow her to be taken on discipline by the Session of that parish.  
Closed with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Wilhelmina Ramage appears accusing Jas. Wyllie of fornication.*

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**Cumnock 27 February 1843**

Session met & was constituted with prayer  
Sederunt the Moderator with John Gibb and Will. Galbraith

Compeared Margaret Bell & William Lamont. She in his presence repeated her accusation of him as being the father of her child that was lately born in fornication. He denied the charge.

*margin note*  
*Margt. Bell repeats her accusation of Wm Lamont. He denies*

Compeared also John Patrick, pro secundo, for fornication with Wallace Gilfillan, now his wife, for the second case. He was rebuked suitably admonished & absolved from the scandal.  
Closed with prayer.

*margin note*  
*John Patrick's 2 appearance for fornication with Wallace Gilfillan, 2<sup>nd</sup> case. He is absolved.*

**Cumnock 27 March 1843**

Session met & was constituted with prayer  
Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders except Jas. Bain

Compeared William Crawford and Robina Rice spouses. They were married about t end of December 1841 and a few days after the marriage she gave birth to a child, of which child she declared him to be the father. He however denied the paternity of it. Each brought forward several witnesses to substantiate their own declaration. The evidence of these witnesses was heard by the Session and minuted but it was considered to be indecisive of the matter and irrelevant and the Clerk was instructed not to record it.  
The Session was closed with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Wm Crawford and Robina Rice spouses*

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Cumnock 1st May 1843

Session met & was constituted with prayer  
Sederunt the Moderator with William Galbraith and John Gibb, Elders



Compeared Andrew Stillie and Margaret Houston spouses for ante-nuptial fornication.

Also Elizabeth Smith wife of Edward McMillan for the same whose husband belongs to the Secession congregation. They were all rebuked, suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal of the offence.

Closed with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Andw. Stillie & Margt Houston*  
*also Eliz. Smith appear for antenuptial fornication*

[the **Disruption** occurred in 1843 and the Revd Ninian Bannatyne resigned and formed the Free Church. Many of the congregation went with him]

**At Cumnock Manse the 4<sup>th</sup> day of September 1843** on which day the committee appointed by the Presbytery for that purpose met as a Kirk Session. Sederunt after prayer, The Revd James Murray, Modr, the Revd James Boyd, the Revd James Chrystal. Mr Chrystal was appointed clerk.

Cpmeared Thomas Clark & also Daniel Stillie<sup>156</sup> & Jean Adamson, spouses; they severally confessed themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication; & were suitably admonished by the Moderator.

Closed with prayer

*margin note*  
*Thos. Clark, Daniel Stillie & Jean Adamson*  
*for antenuptial fornication*  
*are absolved*

**At Cumnock, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 1843** on which day the committee of Presbytery appointed to constitute a Kirk-Session for that parish met and was constituted. Sederunt after prayer The Revd James Murray<sup>157</sup>, Moderator, the Revd James Boyd, the Revd James Chrystal assessors. Mr Chrystal was chosen clerk.

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The meeting having taken into consideration the peculiar circumstances of the parish as being destitute of a Kirk-Session; & being strongly impressed with a sense of the importance of having that defect immediately supplied, resolved to authorise Mr Murray to take immediate steps to form a Kirk-Session according to the rules of the Church; and with the view of carrying this design into effect they appointed him to make the necessary intimations upon the subject next Lord's day, four Elders being the number to be appointed & these to be elected according to the form prescribed in the latest act of Assembly anent the election of Elders.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Authorizing election of Elders*

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<sup>156</sup> [Daniel Stillie](#)

<sup>157</sup> [Rev. James Murray](#)

At Cumnock the 30<sup>th</sup> day of November 1843 – on which day the committee of Presbytery, appointed for forming a Kirk-Session for the parish met & was constituted. Sederunt after prayer The Revd James Murray, Moderator, the Revd. Messrs. James Chrystal and Robert Murray<sup>158</sup> assessors. Mr Chrystal was chosen clerk.

The meeting having convened for the purpose of hearing any objections against the ordination of Messrs. James Boyd, Robert Welsh<sup>159</sup>, John McLonaghan<sup>160</sup> and John Baird<sup>161</sup> to the Eldership, and The Revd James Murray having reported that their Edict was duly served, and the people having been thrice called by the Church Officer, no person appeared to object. Thereupon it was agreed that the Ordination of said Messrs. James Boyd, Robert Welsh, John McLanaghan and John Baird be proceeded in, and that with this view, Mr Murray be authorized to ordain them on the first Sabbath next convenient for himself, & thereafter call a meeting of the assessors, that they may the Elders the right-hand of friendship and duly instal them into their office as members of the Kirk-Session.

Closed with prayer.

*margin note*  
*Authorizing ordination of Elders*

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At Cumnock the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 1843, on which day the committee of Presbytery appointed for forming a Kirk-Session for the parish, met & was constituted. Sederunt after prayer, The Revd. James Murray Modr., The Revd James Chrystal, & the Revd Robert Murray.

In accordance with former resolution, the Moderator did last Sabbath after sermon put to Messrs. Welsh, Boyd, Baird, McLonaghan the questions appointed to be put to persons before their ordination to the Eldership And they having given satisfactory answers to the same , he did after solemn prayer to Almighty God set apart the said Messrs. Welsh, Boyd, Baird, McLonaghan to the office of the Eldership; after which they & the people were severally addressed on their respective duties. Messrs. Welsh, Boyd, Baird, McLonaghan being now present received the right hand of fellowship from the Members of Committee & their names were ordered to be put upon the roll. Thereafter they signed the formula.

Sederunt closed with prayer

*margin note*  
*Installation of the Elders*

### **Cumnock 8<sup>th</sup> January 1844**

The Session met & was constituted with prayer. Present with the Moderator, Jas. Boyd, Robert Welsh, John Baird and John McClonaghan, Elders

Compeared Margaret Bell in Boyleston, for/  
.....

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/for fornication with William Lamont in Stonepark. He denied the charge before the Session, (see the Minute of date Feby. 27 1843) But when the matter was carried

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<sup>158</sup> [Rev Robert Murray](#), brother of James

<sup>159</sup> [Robert Welsh](#)

<sup>160</sup> [John McLanachan](#)

<sup>161</sup> probably this [John Baird](#)

before Civil Court a decision was given in her favour. Compeared also John Hair & Helen McDonald spouses & James McMillan & Janet Docherty spouses all confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and likewise Mary Patrick<sup>162</sup> accusing John Hair draper as the father of a child natural? born by her in fornication about six or seven years ago.

Margaret Bell & two married couples were rebuked and suitably admonished. The married parties were then absolved from the scandal of their offences & Margt. Bell was ordered to appear again.

Closed with prayer

*Margin notes*  
*Margt. Bell for fornication 1st app*  
*John Hair Helen McDonald*  
*Jas. McMillan Janet Docherty*  
*for antenuptial fornication*  
*absolved*  
*Mary Patrick accuses John Hair of fornn.*

#### **Cumnock 29<sup>th</sup> January 1844**

The Session met & was constituted with prayer. Present with the Moderator, Jas. Boyd, Robert Welsh, John Baird and John McClonaghan, Elders

Compeared pro secundo Margaret Bell for fornication with William Lamont. She was suitably admonished, and absolved from the offence. Compeared also Mary Patrick repeating her accusation of John Hair Draper in Cumnock.

Closed with prayer.

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#### **Cumnock 24 February 1844**

The Session met & was constituted with prayer. Present with the Moderator & Jas. Boyd, Robert Welsh, Elders

Compeared Sarah Whyte<sup>163</sup> for antenuptial fornication with Jas. Torrance. She produced a line from Catrine Session. She was suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal of the offence.

Closed with prayer

*Margin note*  
*Sarah Whyte and Jas Torrance final*

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#### **Cumnock 1<sup>st</sup> April 1844**

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<sup>162</sup> [Mary Patrick ?](#)

<sup>163</sup> [Sarah Whyte](#)

The Session met & was constituted with prayer. Sederunt together with the Moderator. Messers. Jas. Boyd, Robt. Welsh, Jno. Baird, & Jno McLanachan, Elders

Compeared final Mary Patrick for the sin of fornication with John Brown.<sup>164</sup> She brought a line from the Session of Sorn authorising the Cumnock Session to take up the case.

Compeared Elizabeth Sloss for the sin fornication with James Clark who has left this place. She was suitably admonished and requested to appear again.

Closed with prayer

*Margin notes*  
*Compeared for fornication Mary Patrick final*  
*Elizh. Sloss (pro primo)*

### **Cumnock 28 April 1844**

The Session met & was constituted with prayer. Sederunt together with the Moderator, Messers., John Baird, Robert Welsh & Jho McLanachan, Elders

Compeared Andrew Bell Boyleston for the sin of fornication with Margaret Howatson<sup>165</sup>, parish of Daily. He was suitably admonished and ordered to appear again.

Closed with prayer.

*Margin notes*  
*Andw. Bell, Boylston, (pro primo)*

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### **Cumnock 1<sup>st</sup> July 1844**

The Session met & was constituted with prayer. Sederunt with the Moderator, Messrs. James Boyd, John Baird, John McLanachan & Robert Welsh Elders  
Compeared Andrew Bell late of Boylston pro secundo, see last minute, for the sin of fornication and Elizabeth Sloss of Cumnock for fornication, see minute date 1 April 1844. They were suitably admonished and absolved from the scandal of the offence.

*Margin notes*  
*A Bell & Eizabeth Sloss absolved*

The Session, having examined the petitions which were handed to them by the meeting of Heritors held on the 28<sup>th</sup> ulto. they agree to give Wm Miller Bridgend 2/- monthly, Wm Clark 4/- monthly, Mrs Frame 4/- monthly and Margaret Lammie, 3/- monthly.

Closed with prayer

[new handwriting, new Session clerk]

### **Cumnock 30<sup>th</sup> July 1844**

Which day the Kirk Session, being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd James Murray Moderator, Messrs. James Boyd & John McLonachan, Elders

Compeared Henry Neil who had been previously declared by the Kirk Session (see minutes of date Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, April 27<sup>th</sup>, and May 31<sup>st</sup> 1844) guilty of the sin of Fornication

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<sup>164</sup> ? It was John Hair in the previous minutes.

<sup>165</sup> Should it be [Christian Howatson](#)?

with Janet Gilfillan. He was suitably rebuked and admonished and directed to appear to appear again at next meeting.

*margin note*  
*Henry Neil*

The Kirk Session unanimously elected Mr David L Scott, parochial schoolmaster to be their Clerk and the books were /

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/accordingly delivered to him.  
Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

### **Cumnock 26 August 1844**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Moderator, Messrs. Jas. Boyd, John Baird, Robt Welsh, Elders

Compeared Alexander Ferguson<sup>166</sup> residing in Nethertown and Mary Hyslop<sup>167</sup> residing in New Cumnock confessing themselves guilty of the sin of fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished they were directed to appear again at next meeting of Session.

*margin note*  
*Comp A. Ferguson for fornication 1<sup>st</sup> app.*

Compeared also Janet Crichton residing in Cumnock confessing herself guilty of the sin of fornication with William McCowan<sup>168</sup> residing at Caponacre against whom a decree was obtained from the Justice of the Peace Court held here on 5<sup>th</sup> July last as being the father of her child. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator she was directed to appear again at next meeting.

*margin note*  
*Comp Janet Crichton for fornication 1<sup>st</sup> app.*

The Kirk Session directed the clerk to purchase a copy of Dunlop's Parochial Law and to charge the same to the Account of the Kirk Session.  
Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

### **Cumnock 28 October 1844**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Moderator & Messrs. Boyd and Welsh, Elders

Compeared James Mitchell and Elizabeth Baird confessing themselves guilty of Antenuptial Fornication and also Mary Hyslop and Janet Crichton pro secundo for Fornication. After suitable admonition from the Moderator they/

*Margin note*  
*James Mitchell and Elizabeth Baird for antenuptial fornication*

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<sup>166</sup> [Alexander Ferguson](#)

<sup>167</sup> ? [Mary Hyslop](#) or ?more likely [Mary Hyslop](#)

<sup>168</sup> [William McCowan](#)

/were restored to the privileges of the Church.

The Kirk Session fixed the following rules for the guidance of Mr Scott in the admission of Poor Children to the Heritors' and Duncan's lists.

1<sup>st</sup> That in urgent cases when more than one pupil from the same family stand on either of the above lists at the present date, they shall be exempted from the influence of the following rules as long as may appear necessary.

2<sup>nd</sup> That henceforward one pupil only shall be admitted to either of the above lists, from the same family unless authority be obtained from the Heritors to admit more.

3<sup>rd</sup> That pupils admitted to these lists should be instructed in reading writing & arithmetic.

4<sup>th</sup> That no family shall have access to both lists

5<sup>th</sup> That in the event of a pupil being removed no other from the same family shall be sent as a substitute, until authorised by the Kirk Session

6<sup>th</sup> that all applications shall stand over until the monthly meeting of Session.

Sederunt closed with prayer

James Murray Minr.

#### **Cumnock 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1844**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Modr. & Messrs. James Boyd and John McLonachan, Elders

Compeared, pro secundo, Alexander Ferguson for the crime of fornication. After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, he was pronounced free from all grounds of church censure.

Sederunt closed with prayer

*Margin note*

*Alexr. Ferguson 2nd App. for fornication see minute of date Aug. 26 1844*

#### **Cumnock 30<sup>th</sup> December 1844**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Modr. & Messrs. James Boyd John Baird and John McLonachan, Elders

Compeared John McDougal<sup>169</sup> confessing himself guilty of fornication with Janet Barber and subsequently with Janet Miller whom he has since married. Both offences were committed in the parish of Dundonald but as he is at present residing in this parish he requested to be taken on discipline here. Mr Murray stated that he has received a letter from Mr Willison, minister of the parish of Dundonald authorising him to take him on discipline. After being suitably rebuked by the Moderator he was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session.

Compeared also Janet Miller wife of the above mentioned John McDougal, confessing herself guilty of fornication with him. As she was residing in the parish of Dundonald when the offence was committed, Mr Murray was authorised by the Rev

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<sup>169</sup> [John McDougal](#)

Mr Willison of Dundonald to take her on discipline also. After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, she was restored to the privileges of the church. Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray Moderator

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**Cumnock 28<sup>th</sup> January 1845**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Modr. & Messrs. James Boyd and Robert Welsh, Elders

Compeared John McDougal, pro secundo for the crime of fornication. After suitable admonition by the Moderator he was directed to appear again.

Compeared also Thomas Goodlit,<sup>170</sup>

requesting baptism for his daughter and confessing himself guilty of neglect in not having her baptised at the time. As the Kirk Session did not consider him properly penitent, they resolved to defer the baptism of his child until next meeting. in the meantime he was suitably admonished by the Moderator.

Sederunt closed with prayer

James Murray Moderr.

**Cumnock 24<sup>th</sup> February 1845**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Modr. & Messrs. Boyd, Welsh and McLonachan Elders

Compeared pro tertio John Mcdougal for the crime of fornication. After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, he was restored to the privileges of the church.

Compeared, pro secundo, Thomas Goodlit, requesting baptism for his child, as the Kirk Session were now satisfied with his penitence, they directed and authorised the Moderator to adminster the Sacrament of baptism to the child, which was done accordingly.

Compeared James Graham and Elizabeth Mcleod confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished/

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Compeared Mary Stewart confessing herself guilty of the sin of fornication with John Martin. After being suitably rebuked she was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session.

Sederunt closed with prayer

James Murray, Moder.

**Cumnock 31<sup>st</sup> March 1845**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Modr. & Messrs. Boyd and Welsh, Elders

Compeared pro secundo Mary Stewart for the sin of fornication. After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, she was restored to the privileges of the church.

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<sup>170</sup> [Thomas Goodlet](#)

The Moderator laid before the Session a letter from the Rev Dr Dunbar of Applegarth anent James Brydon formerly residing in the parish of Applegarth, now an apprentice to Wm. Dixon<sup>171</sup>, Blacksmith, Old Cumnock charging him with being the father of a child born in fornication by Jean Graham in the former parish. The Moderator also stated that the Kirk Officer had summoned the said James Brydon in terms of Dr. Dunbar's letter to appear before the Session this day and that he had received from him the following letter

1845 March 31<sup>st</sup> Mr Murry Of The Kirk Sess O Cumnock  
Sir I rit you this fue lines in anser to your sumens saying  
that I am gilty of the charge lad to me.  
(Signed) James Brydon

.....  
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The Kirk to Session directed their Clerk to communicate the above answer to Dr Dunbar.

Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

### **Cumnock April 28<sup>th</sup> 1845**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Moderator & Messrs. Boyd, Welsh, Baird, Elders

Compeared William Young<sup>172</sup> & Jane Roxburgh confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator they were restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

### **Cumnock 26<sup>th</sup> May 1845**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Modr & Messrs. Boyd, Welsh, Baird, Elders

Compeared James Goudie<sup>173</sup> & Elizabeth Brown spouses also Ja Smith<sup>174</sup> & Ann Anderson spouses confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. Both wives had been previously connected with the Free Church, the husbands had not been in connection with any church. All the parties however expressed their intention of becoming members of the Established Church. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator they were declared admissible to church privileges.

Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

.....  
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### **Cumnock 29<sup>th</sup> July 1845**

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<sup>171</sup> [William Dickson](#)

<sup>172</sup> [William Young](#)

<sup>173</sup> [James Goudie](#)

<sup>174</sup> [James Smith](#)



Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Modr & Messrs. Boyd, Baird, McLanachan, Elders

Compeared Agnes Goodlet confessing herself guilty of the sin of fornication with John McEwan. After being suitably rebuked by the Moderator she was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session.

Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

### **Cumnock 1<sup>st</sup> September 1845**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Modr & Messrs. Boyd, Welsh, Baird, Elders

Compeared pro secundo Agnes Goodlet for the sin of fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator she was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared Archibald McCowan<sup>175</sup> & Sarah Hair his wife, also John Kay<sup>176</sup> & Euphemia Hodge his wife confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked by the Moderator they were restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared Mary Roxburgh wife of /

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/William Campbell confessing herself guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator she was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

### **Cumnock 19 October 1845**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Modr & Messrs. Boyd, Baird, McLonachan, Elders

The Session consider their number too small in proportion to the extent and population of the parish and the more so in consequence of the recent death of Mr Welsh resolve to elect Mr David Lawson Scott<sup>177</sup> and Thomas Stoddart<sup>178</sup> as Elders, their consent thereto having been obtained, and accordingly instructed the Moderator to serve the edict on the following Sabbath.

Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

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### **Cumnock 10<sup>th</sup> November 1845**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Modr & Messrs. Boyd, Baird, McLonachan, Elders

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<sup>175</sup> [Archibald McCowan](#)

<sup>176</sup> [John Kay](#)

<sup>177</sup> [David L Scott](#)

<sup>178</sup> ? [Thomas Stoddart](#)

The Kirk Session finding that no objections have been lodged against the ordination of Messrs David Lawson Scott and Thomas Stoddart as Elders in this congregation, resolve that they be ordained on Sabbath first in terms of the intimation from the pulpit on Sabbath the 26<sup>th</sup> day of October last and authorise the Moderator to take the necessary steps thereto according to the laws of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer

James Murray Moderator

**Cumnock 17<sup>th</sup> November 1845**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Modr & Messrs. Boyd, Baird, McLonachan, Elders

Mr Scott and Mr Stoddart having been ordained as Elders this day received the right hand of fellowship and their names were added to the list of Elders.

Sederunt closed with prayer

James Murray Moderator

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N.B. Meetings of Session were held on 29 Decr 1845, 26 Jany 1846, and 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1846 but as there was no business before them no minutes were drawn out.

D. L. Scott, Sess. Clerk

**Cumnock 30<sup>th</sup> March 1846**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Moderator & Messrs. Boyd, Scott and Stoddart, Elders

Compeared William Carnochan<sup>179</sup> and Janet Gilfillan confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication, the deed having been committed in the parish of Sorn. The Session of that parish requested that they might be taken on discipline by this Session which was agreed to. They were therefore suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator and restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer

James Murray Moderator

**Cumnock 27<sup>th</sup> April 1846**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Moderator & Messrs. Boyd, Baird, McLonachan and Scott, Elders

Compeared Adam Mackie and Helen Miller his wife confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator/

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/they were restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared William Kirkland<sup>180</sup>, Flesher, Cumnock confessing himself guilty of fornication with Elizabeth Thomson in Cumnock. After being suitably rebuked by the Moderator, he was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session.

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<sup>179</sup> [William Carnochan](#). /Carnahan

<sup>180</sup> [William Kirkland](#)

Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

**Cumnock 1<sup>st</sup> June 1846**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Moderator & Messrs James Boyd, John Baird, Thomas Stoddart and David L Scott Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, William Kirkland Flesher Cumnock. After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, he was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared James Shankland<sup>181</sup> Farmer Dykes confessing himself guilty of fornication with Wilhelmina Kerr servant Garallan. Compeared also John Mackie<sup>182</sup> son of John Mackie Bowton confessing himself guilty of fornication with Jane McKerrow<sup>183</sup> Garleffan.

After being suitably rebuked by the Moderator, they were both directed to appear before a meeting of Session to be held on Sabbath first the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. after the forenoon service.

Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

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**Cumnock 7<sup>th</sup> June 1846**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Moderator & Messrs Boyd, Baird, Stoddart McLanachan and Scott Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, James Shankland, Farmer Dykes and John Mackie son of John Mackie Farmer Bowton, confessing themselves guilty of fornication. After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, they were restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

**Cumnock 28<sup>th</sup> September 1846**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Moderator & Messrs James Boyd, and Thomas Stoddart, Elders.

Compeared William Crosier<sup>184</sup> and Jane Hutchison his wife. Compeared also William Smith, all confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably admonished and rebuked by the Moderator, they were restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared also Henry Neil and acknowledged himself guilty of fornication with Janet Gilfillan. After being suitably admonished and rebuked by the Moderator, he was restored to the privileges of the Church.

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<sup>181</sup> [James Shankland](#)

<sup>182</sup> [John Mackie](#)

<sup>183</sup> [Jane McKerrow](#)

<sup>184</sup> [William Crosier](#)

Compeared also Margaret Martin confessing herself guilty of fornication with John Dykes. The said John Dykes acknowledges the child to be his. They were to have been married in February last, but the man received a fall from a horse in January which has hitherto disabled him from work and prevented the marriage./

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/After being suitably rebuked by the Moderator she was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session.

Sederunt closed with prayer

James Murray Moderator

### **Cumnock 26<sup>th</sup> October 1846**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Moderator & Messrs Boyd, Stoddart, McLonachan and Scott Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, Margaret Martin<sup>185</sup> confessing herself guilty of fornication with John Dykes. After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, she was restored to the privileges of the Church.

### **Cumnock 22 November 1846**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Moderator & Messrs Boyd, Baird, McLonachan, Stoddart, & Scott, Elders.

Compeared, pro primo, Robert Murdoch, confessing himself guilty of fornication. After being suitably rebuked by the Moderator, he was directed to appear at next meeting of Session.

Sederunt closed with prayer

James Murray Moderator

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### **Cumnock 7<sup>th</sup> December 1846**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Moderator, Messrs James Boyd, John McLonachan, Thomas Stoddart and David L. Scott, Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, Robert Murdoch, confessing himself guilty of fornication. After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, he was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared pro primo, Mary Clarke<sup>186</sup> confessing herself guilty of fornication with David Bone. After being suitably rebuked by the Moderator, she was directed to appear at next meeting of Session.

Sederunt closed with prayer

James Murray Moderator

### **Cumnock 28 December 1846**

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<sup>185</sup> [Margaret Martin](#)

<sup>186</sup> [Mary Clarke](#)

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Moderator, Messrs Boyd, Stoddart and Scott, Elders.

Compeared John Stewart and Agnes Stuart confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared for the second time Mary Clarke for fornication confessing herself guilty of fornication (see Min. 7 Dec 1846) After being suitably rebuked by the Moderator, she was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared for the first time Wilhelmina Kerr confessing herself guilty of fornication with James Shankland Farmer in Dykes. After being rebuked by the Moderator, she was directed to appear at next meeting of Session.

Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

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**Cumnock 1<sup>st</sup> March 1847**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Rev James Murray Moderator, Messrs Boyd, Baird, Stoddart and Scott, Elders.

Compeared for the second time Wilhelmina Kerr (see Min. 28 Dec 1846) After being suitably rebuked by the Moderator, she was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared James Hunter and Jane Purdie Spouses confessing themselves to have been guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

**Cumnock 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1847**

Which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt The Moderator and the Elders

Compeared James Crichton<sup>187</sup> Farmer, Hill, and Elizabeth Shankland his wife confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. They stated that they had previously belonged to the Free Church but that they wished to be taken on discipline by the Session and to become members of the Church of Scotland. The Session taking into consideration their previous good character agreed to take them on discipline, and after being absolved from the scandal, to admit them as members of this congregation which was accordingly done.

Compeared, also, Janet White<sup>188</sup> confessing that she had borne a child in fornication to James Kirkwood who had admitted the paternity and received baptism for the

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<sup>187</sup> [James Crichton](#)

<sup>188</sup> [Janet White](#)

child after being suitably rebuked by the Moderator she was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session.  
Session closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

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**Cumnock 31 May 1847**

which day the Kirk Session being met & constituted. Sederunt the Revd James Murray Moderator Messrs Boyd Scott and Stoddart, Elders.  
Compeared pro secundo Janet White confessing herself guilty of fornication with James Kirkwood after being suitably admonished by the Moderator she was restored to the privileges of the Church.  
Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

**Cumnock 29 June 1847**

which day the Kirk Session being met and constituted Sederunt Revd James Murray Moderator Messrs Boyd, Scott & [unfilled space] Elders

Compeared John McQuater<sup>189</sup> and Margaret White spouses confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being a suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator they were absolved from the scandal.

Compeared for the first time Janet Finlay confessing herself guilty of fornication with William Sharp now or lately employed at the Lugar Ironworks. She stated that the said William Sharp had acknowledged the child to be his. After being suitably rebuked by the Moderator she was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session  
Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

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**Cumnock July 26, 1847**

which day the Kirk Session being met constituted .  
Sederunt the Reverend James Murray Moderator, Messrs Boyd, Baird, Stoddart & Scott, Elders

Compeared for the second time Janet Finlay (See min. June 29, 1847) after being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator she was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared for the first time Agnes Lithgow confessing herself guilty of fornication with John Corson after being suitably rebuked by the Moderator she was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session  
Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

**Cumnock 3 October 1847**

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<sup>189</sup> [John McQuater](#)

which day the Kirk Session meeting met and constituted Sederunt Rev. James Murray Moderator, Messrs Boyd, Baird, McClanahan Stoddart & Scott, Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, Agnes Lithgow (see last min.) After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, she was restored to the privileges of the church. The said Agnes Lithgow having a requested baptism for the child which she had had by John Corson (who has acknowledged himself to be the father of the child) she herself standing sponsor, the Session authorise the Moderator to administer the ordinance at such time as should be convenient for himself.

Sederunt closed with prayer  
James Murray Moderator

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**Cumnock – October 10<sup>th</sup> 1847**

Which day the Kirk session being met and constituted Sederunt the Rev James Murray, Moderator, Messrs Boyd, Stoddard, McClonachan and Scott, Elders.

The Moderator stated that Nicholas Black<sup>190</sup> or McClonachan had applied to him to have her child baptised, herself standing sponsor; and he requests the advice of the Session in the matter. The Session being aware of certain reports current in the village affecting the character of the said Nicholas McLonachan, but not being in possession of any proof of their truth, were of the opinion that under the circumstances the baptism ought to be delayed. Further, the Session were of the opinion that the time that has lapsed since the said Nicholas Black's leaving the Free Church and attending this is not sufficient to warrant to grant baptism to her child, and that this of itself would be sufficient ground for delay.

Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 7<sup>th</sup> November 1847**

Which day the Kirk Session being met and constituted Sederunt the Revd James Murray, Moderator, and Messrs Boyd, Baird, McLonachan and Scott, Elders.

The Session unanimously made choice of Mr James Boyd, one of their number, and a bona fide acting Elder in this congregation, to represent them in the Presbytery and Synod in the ensuing half year.

Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock – 5<sup>th</sup> December 1847**

Which day the Session being met and constituted Sederunt the minister and all the elders.

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<sup>190</sup> [Nicholas Black](#)

Compeared Euphemia Rusk, wife of James McGuffy<sup>191</sup>, confessing the sin of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was restored to the privileges of the Church.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 30<sup>th</sup> January 1848**

Which day the Session being met and constituted, Sederunt the minister and Elders.

Compeared James Murray<sup>192</sup> and Sarah Long, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished they were restored to the privileges of the church.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 8<sup>th</sup> May<sup>193</sup> 1848**

Which day the Session being met and constituted, Sederunt the minister and Elders.

Compeared pro secunda, Elizabeth Cockburn for fornication with Hugh Campbell. She now produces the document which she promised at the last meeting of Session to bring forward. Compeared also pro secunda Helen Finlay for fornication with Robert McMillan. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Compeared also John Cameron and Margaret McMath<sup>194</sup>, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved/

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/from the scandal. Thereafter their child was baptised before the Session, the father having come under a promise to become a member of the Church.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 27<sup>th</sup> March 1848**

Which day the Session being met and constituted, Sederunt the minister & Elders.

Compeared Ann Murdoch, wife of William Smith, confessing herself guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared also Helen Finlay, confessing herself guilty of fornication with Robert McMillan, presently residing at Pluck. Robert McMillan, being called, compeared and acknowledged in the presence of the Session that he was the father of her child. She was therefore suitably rebuked and directed to appear again at next meeting of Session.

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<sup>191</sup> [James McGuffy](#)

<sup>192</sup> [James Murray](#)

<sup>193</sup> This date should possibly be 8<sup>th</sup> March 1848

<sup>194</sup> [Margaret McMath](#)



Compeared also Elizabeth Cockburn, confessing herself guilty of fornication with Hugh Campbell<sup>195</sup>, Inn Keeper, Cumnock, and stating that he had acknowledged himself to be the father of her child. Not having a written acknowledgement under his hand, she brought forward Mrs Steven and Mrs McKie, who both stated that he had in effect confessed that the child was his, in their presence. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session, and was requested at the same time to bring with her a letter of acknowledgement, which she stated he had expressed himself willing to give.

Compeared also William Kirkland, confessing himself guilty of fornication with [unfilled space] Thomson. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

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#### **Cumnock – 14<sup>th</sup> August 1848**

Which day the Session being met and constituted, Sederunt the minister and all the elders.

Compeared Jane McClelland<sup>196</sup> for fornication with Hugh McClachan, Elizabeth Taylor<sup>197</sup> for the same crime with Alexander Simpson, and Janet McCall for the same crime with James McMath<sup>198</sup>. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were directed to appear again at next meeting of Session.

Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

#### **Cumnock – 23rd August 1848**

Which day the Session being met and constituted, Sederunt the Revd Mr Murray and all the Elders, except Mr Baird.

Compeared John Riggins<sup>199</sup>, Blacksmith, Cumnock, conformably to citation at the instance of the Kirk Session of Galston, to answer a charge of fornication brought against him by Christina Balfour of that Parish. Being solemnly admonished by the Moderator to declare the truth, and being asked whether he was the father of Christina Balfour's child, he denied that he was the father, but stated that he had met her on the Kilmarnock coach, and on alighting at Auchinleck, he gave her a gill in Mrs Eadie's and thence accompanied her to her sister's at the Rigg. This was in the latter end of August or beginning of September, 1847 and he declared that he had never seen her either before or since.

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<sup>195</sup> [Hugh Campbell](#)

<sup>196</sup> [Jane McClelland](#)

<sup>197</sup> [Elizabeth Taylor](#)

<sup>198</sup> [James McMath](#)

<sup>199</sup> [John Riggins](#)

Compeared also pro secundo Elizabeth Taylor and Jane McClelland for the sin of fornication. After being solemnly admonished by the Moderator, the were restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock – 27<sup>th</sup> August 1848**

Which day the Session being met and constituted, Sederunt the minister & the Elders.

Compeared pro secundo, Janet McCall (see min 14<sup>th</sup> inst). After being suitably rebuked by the Moderator, she was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared pro primo, James McMath for fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1848**

Which day the Session being met and constituted Sederunt the minister & Elders.

Compeared pro primo, Jane Henderson, confessing herself guilty of fornication with Hugh Thomson. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 21<sup>st</sup> January 1849**

Which day the Session being met and constituted, Sederunt the minister & Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, Janet Henderson (see last minute). After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, she was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared also, pro primo, Catherine McLatchie, /

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/confessing herself guilty of fornication with Thomas Robertson. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 4<sup>th</sup> February 1849**

Which day the Session being met and constituted, Sederunt the Minister & Elders.

Compeared pro primo, Jane McCartney, confessing herself guilty of fornication with Thomas Walker. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were directed to appear again.

Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 18<sup>th</sup> February 1849**

Which day the Session being met and constituted  
Sederunt the Minister & Elders.

Compeared Robert Elliott<sup>200</sup>, confessing himself guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was restored to the privileges of the Church.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 18<sup>th</sup> February 1849**

Which day the Session being met and constituted, Sederunt the Minister & Elders.

Compeared Elizabeth McCrone, wife of Robert Elliott, confessing herself guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was restored to the privileges of the Church.  
Compeared also, pro secundo, Jane McCartney (see mins.4<sup>th</sup> inst). After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, she was absolved from the scandal.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock – 4<sup>th</sup> March 1849**

Session met and was constituted, Sederunt the Minister & Elders.

Compeared John McCririck and Janet Wilson, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared also, pro primo, Janet Henderson, confessing herself guilty of fornication with Thomas Wilson. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 25<sup>th</sup> March 1849**

Session met and was constituted, Sederunt the Revd James Chrystal, in the absence of the Revd Mr Murray, & the Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, Janet Henderson and Catherine McLatchie for fornication. After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, they were restored to the privileges of the Church.

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<sup>200</sup> [Robert Elliott](#)

Compeared also, pro primo, Catharine Smith, confessing herself guilty of fornication with [unfilled space] Kay. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session. Sederunt closed with prayer. James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1849**

Session met and was constituted, Sederunt the Minister & Elders.

Compeared Jane Hodge, confessing that she had borne a child in fornication to James Law, Coach-driver. Law is understood to be a married man, but she declares that at the time the deed was committed, she was not aware that he was married. On account of the want of any proof or acknowledgement of the paternity, the Session delay consideration of the case until this be established. Closed with prayer. James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock – 29<sup>th</sup> April 1849**

Session met and was constituted, Sederunt the Minister & Elders.

Compeared James Anderson and Margaret McCrae, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal. Sederunt closed with prayer. James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 20<sup>th</sup> May 1849**

Session met and was constituted, Sederunt the Minister & Elders.

Compeared pro secundo, Catharine Smith (see minute of 25<sup>th</sup> March). After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, she was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared also, pro primo, Elizabeth McMillan, confessing herself guilty of fornication with Matthew Riggins. After being suitably rebuked and admonished, she was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session. Sederunt closed with prayer. James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 17<sup>th</sup> June 1849**

Session met and was constituted, Sederunt the Minister & all the Elders. The Session took into consideration the application of Thomas Goodlet<sup>201</sup> junior for admission to church privileges. He confessed voluntarily to the Moderator that he had got himself intoxicated on one occasion about four months ago, but has abstained from drink entirely ever since. The Session, being satisfied with the statement of the Moderator regarding his penitence, agree that his request should be granted.

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<sup>201</sup> [Thomas Goodlet](#)

Compeared, pro secundo, Elizabeth McMillan for fornication with Matthew Riggins (see last minute.) After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, she was absolved from the Scandal.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock – 21<sup>st</sup> June 1849**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Minister & Elders.

The Moderator laid before the Session certificates of Church Membership from the Minster of Dunoon, in favour of Dr Ebenezer Robertson<sup>202</sup> and Mrs Robertson, who wish to be admitted as communicants. As certain reports derogatory to the character of the former have been, and still are, in circulation, the Session direct the Clerk to write to him stating that they are of opinion that he ought to defer communicating at least until the next Sacrament.

Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 8<sup>th</sup> July 1849**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Minister and Elders.

Compeared Marion Allan, pro primo, for fornicating with James Elliot, and stating that she had borne a child to him, which is since dead. She also produced a letter from him in which he acknowledged himself to be the father of the child. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session.

Compeared also John Black and Agnes Hood, spouses and John McPhelimy and Janet Crichton, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication, aggravated in the case of the latter pair by a previous offence. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the moderator, the former were absolved from the scandal, and the latter were directed to appear again at next meeting of session.  
Closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1849**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Minister and the Elders.

Compeared David McLeod for antenuptial fornication, Marion Allan, pro secundo and Jane Ramage, pro primo, for fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished, the two former were absolved from the scandal, and the latter was directed to appear again.

Closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

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<sup>202</sup> [Ebenezer Robertson](#)

**Cumnock – 12<sup>th</sup> August 1849**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Minister and Elders.

Compeared George Watson and Helen Ingram, also John McPhelimy and Janet Crichton, pro secundo, for antenuptial fornication; also Jean Ramage, pro secundo, and Christian Peden, pro primo, for fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, the last was directed to appear again, and the others were absolved from the scandal.

Closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator

**Cumnock – 16<sup>th</sup> September 1849**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Minister and Elders.

Compeared Robert Liddell and Susan Howatson, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator

**Cumnock – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1849**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Minister and Elders.

Compeared, pro primo, Robert Barber for fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was directed to appear again.

Closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator

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**Cumnock – 21<sup>st</sup> October 1849**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Minister and Elders.

Compeared Robert Barber and Christian Peden for fornication, both for the second time. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 18<sup>th</sup> November 1849**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Minister and Elders.

Compeared John Riggins<sup>203</sup>, confessing himself guilty of fornication with Agnes Macintosh. After being suitably rebuked and admonished, he was directed to appear again.

Closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 9<sup>th</sup> December 1849**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Minister and Elders.

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<sup>203</sup> [John Riggins](#)

Compeared William Kennedy<sup>204</sup>, confessing himself guilty of fornication with Susan McTurk of the Parish of Dailly. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was directed to appear again.

Closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1850**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Minister and Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, William Kennedy for fornication with Susan McTurk. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 4<sup>th</sup> March 1850**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Minister and Elders.

Compeared according to citation Christina Mitchell<sup>205</sup>, adhering to her former confession and accusation of Thomas Milligan as the father of her child. Compeared also Elizabeth Miller who depones:- That she has seen the said Thomas Milligan and Christina Mitchell in company with one another; that she has often heard them spoken of as “lad and lass”; that she heard, before the birth of the child, that Christina Mitchell was in the family way to the said Thomas Milligan, and at some short time before the birth of the child she overheard Thomas Milligan and Christina Mitchell in conversation, and that, though she could not hear the words, she thought that she (Mitchell was scolding Milligan or finding fault with him. (signed) Elizabeth Miller

Compeared also Jane Clark, who depones:- That she knew Thomas Milligan, that Christina Mitchell and she were frequently together, that she met them one evening, a Friday evening she thinks, near the railway bridge; spoke to them in passing; there was no person with them; saw them frequently together; never saw any undue familiarity between them; that she had heard it said that Christina Mitchell and Milligan had a conversation together the evening before he went away, that she had charged him with being the father of her child and also with a design of leaving the place secretly, and that he denied strongly that he intended to go away. (Signed) Jane Clark - X - her mark.

Compeared also Elizabeth Mitchell, who depones that she/  
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/knew Thomas Milligan; had seen Christina Mitchell and him together more than once in George Alexander’s shed no other person being present; Milligan lodged with witness’s mother, and was at that time a sober young man; heard Christina

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<sup>204</sup> [William Kennedy](#)

<sup>205</sup> [Christina Mitchell](#)

Mitchell spoken of as being with child to Milligan; remembers Christina Mitchell coming to her (witness's) mother's house, and asking witness to go to Milligan's lodgings and ask him out to speak with her (Christina Mitchell); that when she (witness) was turning away, Milligan asked her to stay, which she did; that she heard Milligan say to Christina Mitchell, that if she would give up the company she knew of, he would use her decently; Remember (*sic*) her (witness's) mother telling her to go down and tell Christina that she had some suspicion that Milligan was about to leave the place, and to urge her to see him and come to a proper understanding before his leaving; and that it was immediately thereupon that Christina came in as above stated; that the above conversation took place on the Saturday evening before he left, which he did on the Monday morning. That, as nearly as she can recollect, this was about four weeks before the birth of the child. (Signed) Elizabeth Mitchell. Christina Mitchell, being again called in and interrogated states that she thinks that she was about five months gone in pregnancy before she stated to Milligan that she was with child to him. Remembers going with Elizabeth Mitchell to Milligan's lodgings. Had some conversation with him. Is not sure whether it was herself or Elizabeth who charged him with intending to go away. Milligan said he had drawn his money to send it to his brother who was going to America. When she asked what Elizabeth and he were speaking about before she came forward, she thinks it was Elizabeth who said that a report was going in the town that the child was not Milligan's, and that she (Christina) said that it would have been better for herself perhaps that it had been another's, but that Milligan did not say anything to this either one way or the other./

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/The Session defer consideration of the above evidence till a future meeting, and in the meantime request the Moderator to take the advice of his brethren in the neighbourhood on the subject.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 10<sup>th</sup> March 1850**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, Margaret Steven for fornication with James Johnston<sup>206</sup>. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 11<sup>th</sup> August 1850**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared John McVicar<sup>207</sup>, confessing that he had been guilty of antenuptial fornication with Christina McCrae, now his wife. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

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<sup>206</sup> [James Johnston](#)

<sup>207</sup> [John McVicar](#)



James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 29<sup>th</sup> September 1850**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared Robert White<sup>208</sup>, confessing that he had been guilty of fornication with Agnes Torrance. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock – 5<sup>th</sup> November 1850**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared John Baird<sup>209</sup> for bilapse in fornication with Margaret Dickie, now his wife. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was directed to appear again.<sup>210</sup>

Compeared also Jean Clark, confessing herself guilty of fornication with Hugh Broadfoot, and producing an acknowledgement from him of the paternity of her child. After being rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was directed to appear again.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock –24<sup>th</sup> November 1850**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, John Baird and Jean Clark (see last minute). After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Compeared also David McCulloch and Elizabeth Murdoch, spouses, confessing that they had been guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock – 17<sup>th</sup> August 1851<sup>211</sup>**

The Session having been constituted by prayer, Sederunt the Revd Mr Murray<sup>212</sup> of New Cumnock, Moderator pro tempore, also Messrs Boyd and Johnston, Elders.

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<sup>208</sup> [Robert White](#)

<sup>209</sup> [John Baird](#)

<sup>210</sup> [Hugh Broadfoot](#)

<sup>211</sup> long gap - was the minister Rev Murray ill or away?

<sup>212</sup> [Revd Robert Murray](#) of New Cumnock, brother of James Murray

Compeared Agnes Hamilton confessing to have been guilty of the sin of antenuptial uncleanness with Thomas Baird<sup>213</sup>, her late husband. After being duly admonished by Mr Murray, she was relieved from the Censure. The meeting was closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

#### **Cumnock – 28<sup>th</sup> September 1851<sup>214</sup>**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared William Wilson, confessing himself guilty of fornication with Elizabeth Stewart, and also of antenuptial fornication with Jane Kerr<sup>215</sup>, now his wife. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was directed to appear again.

Compeared also, Agnes Matheson, confessing herself to have been guilty of fornication with William Fergusson, and producing an acknowledgement of the paternity of her child. After being duly rebuked and admonished she was absolved from the scandal. Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

#### **Cumnock – 14<sup>th</sup> October 1851**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Revd Mr Murray, Moderator, Messrs James Boyd and David L Scott, Elders.

Compeared William Mackie<sup>216</sup>, confessing that he had been guilty of fornication with Mary Black and also with Elizabeth Dalziel, but/

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/denying (and stating that he is willing to swear to it) that he ever had any connexion with [unfilled space] After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was directed to appear again.

Compeared also Isabella Carson confessing that she had borne a child in fornication to Charles Crichton, who had acknowledged the paternity, and who had been taken on discipline by the Kirk Session of Ochiltree. As she was residing in the Parish of Ochiltree when the sin was committed, the Clerk was directed to Communicate with the Kirk Session there, requesting their consent to her being taken on discipline here.

Compeared also James Torrance<sup>217</sup> and Rosina McQuidd, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished, they were absolved from the scandal. Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

#### **Cumnock – 16<sup>th</sup> October 1851**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

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<sup>213</sup> [Thomas Baird](#)

<sup>214</sup> [David Lawson Scott](#)

<sup>215</sup> [Jane Kerr](#)

<sup>216</sup> [William Mackie](#)

<sup>217</sup> [James Torrance](#)

Compeared, pro secundo, William Mackie (see last minute) for fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by /

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/the Moderator, he was absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 16<sup>th</sup> November 1851**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared William Wilson, pro secundo, and Jane Kerr, his wife for antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Compeared also Isabella Carson, for fornication (see minute of 14<sup>th</sup> alt.) After being suitably rebuked and admonished, she was directed to appear again.

Compeared also Matthew Riggins junior, confessing that he had been guilty of fornication with Elizabeth McMillan. After suitable admonition, he was directed to appear again.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 14<sup>th</sup> December 1851**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared Hugh Gilmour and Jane Ireland, spouses, confessing that they had been guilty of antenuptial fornication. After suitable admonition, they were absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 28<sup>th</sup> December 1851**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared Jane Scott, confessing that she had borne a child in fornication to Robert Brown. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was directed to appear again.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 8<sup>th</sup> February 1852**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, Isabella Carson

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(see minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> Oct and 16<sup>th</sup> Nov last) and Jane Scott (see minute of 28<sup>th</sup> Dec last). After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Compeared also Catharine McLatchie and Agnes Wilson for the sin of fornication. After suitable rebuke and admonition, they were directed to appear again. Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 4<sup>th</sup> March 1852**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared James Kerr confessing that he had been guilty of fornication with Janet Gibson, who had borne a child to him. After suitable rebuke and admonition, he was directed to appear again.

Compeared also, pro secundo, Agnes Wilson and Catharine McLatchie (see last minute). After being suitably rebuked and admonished, they were absolved from the scandal.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 21<sup>st</sup> March 1852**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared Margaret Bell, confessing that she had born a child in fornication to William Lamont, residing at Holmhead in this Parish, and stating that the paternity had been acknowledged by him. As this is the third time the said Margaret Bell has come before the Session under a similar charge, the Kirk Session find themselves incompetent to deal with the case, and accordingly resolve to bring the matter before the Presbytery. She was therefore ordered to appear before the Presbytery/  
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/at their next meeting.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 25<sup>th</sup> April 1852**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared James Kerr, pro secundo, for fornication with Janet Gibson (see minute of 4<sup>th</sup> ult.) After suitable admonition and rebuke from the Moderator, he was absolved from the scandal.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 16<sup>th</sup> May 1852**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared John Loudon<sup>218</sup>, confessing that he had been guilty of antenuptial fornication with Janet Steele, now his wife. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared, also, John Reid<sup>219</sup>, confessing that he had been guilty of fornication with Janet Campbell. After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, he was directed to appear again.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1852**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, John Reid (see minute of 16<sup>th</sup> last) for fornication. After being suitable rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

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### **Cumnock – 18<sup>th</sup> July 1852**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, Sarah Baird for fornication with Hugh Robertson and George Mills. After being solemnly admonished and rebuked by the Moderator she was absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 8<sup>th</sup> August 1852**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared George McCririck confessing himself guilty of fornication with Agnes Kay.

Compeared also Agnes Reggans, confessing that she had borne a child in fornication to John Jones, and producing his acknowledgement of the paternity. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were directed to appear again.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 15<sup>th</sup> August 1852**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Revd Mr Chrystal of Auchinleck, Moderator pro tempore, and the Elders.

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<sup>218</sup> [John Loudon](#)

<sup>219</sup> [John Reid](#)

Compeared, pro secundo, George McCririck for fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1852**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, /

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Agnes Reggans for the sin of fornication. After suitable admonition and rebuke by the Moderator, she was absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 24<sup>th</sup> October 1852**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared Agnes Kay, confessing herself guilty of fornication with George McCririck (see minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August). After being suitably rebuked and admonished, she was directed to appear again.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 31<sup>st</sup> October 1852**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared pro secundo, Agnes Kay, for fornication (see last minute). After suitable admonition by the Moderator, she was absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 16<sup>th</sup> January 1853**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared John Thomson<sup>220</sup> and Margaret Henderson, his wife, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After suitable admonition and rebuke, the were absolved from the scandal and restored to the privileges of the church.

Compeared also, Margaret McCririck, confessing herself guilt of fornication. After being/

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/suitably rebuked and admonished, she was directed to appear again.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

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<sup>220</sup> [John Thomson](#)

**Cumnock – 6<sup>th</sup> February 1853**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, Margaret McCririck. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared also Janet Gibson, confessing herself guilty of fornication with James Kerr (see minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> March and 25<sup>th</sup> April 1852). After being suitably rebuked by the Moderator, she was directed to appear again.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 13<sup>th</sup> March 1853**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, Janet Gibson for fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was directed to appear again.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 1<sup>st</sup> May 1853**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared Hugh Wilson for fornication with Janet Hair, and afterwards with Jane Scott, now his wife. Compeared also, the said Jane Scott for antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, the former was directed to appear again and the latter was restored to the privileges of the church. The Session then proceeded to appoint an Elder to represent them in the Presbytery for the ensuing year. They accordingly appointed Mr James Boyd, one of their number and a bona fide acting elder in this congregation, to be their representative as aforesaid.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 17<sup>th</sup> July 1853**

Session met and constituted

Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared Helen McClanachan confessing herself to have been guilty of fornication with James Weir. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was directed to appear again.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 31<sup>st</sup> July 1853**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, Helen McClanachan, for the sin of fornication (see last minute). After being suitably rebuked and admonished, she was restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 19<sup>th</sup> March 1854**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared Daniel McLarty or McLaird and Ann Carson, confessing that they had been guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being/

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suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 8<sup>th</sup> May 1854**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, Ann Wilson for fornication with Andrew Murdoch, and also Thomas Wilson for fornication with Janet Henderson. After being suitably rebuked and admonished, they were restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1854**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Messrs James Boyd, William Johnson, and David L Scott, Elders.

The Session having for some time been of the opinion that the number of Elders is too small, & having at various times taken the matter into serious consideration, have at length resolved to add to their number. The Moderator and members of the Session, after conferring with various individuals whom they considered suitable for the office, have ascertained that the following are willing to undertake it, viz:- William Thomson<sup>221</sup>, Weaver, Townfoot; George Reid<sup>222</sup>, Forester, Brickhouse, Skerrington; John Hayman<sup>223</sup>, Overseer, Dumfries House and Robert Dalgleish<sup>224</sup>, Farmer, Auchengibbert. They therefore resolve to add these to their number, and they accordingly authorise the Moderator to serve the Edict in the usual way, and, if no objections are lodged, to proceed thereafter in the matter, according to the rules of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 18<sup>th</sup> June 1854**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Messrs Johnson & Boyd, Elders.

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<sup>221</sup> [William Thomson](#)

<sup>222</sup> [George Reid](#)

<sup>223</sup> [John Hayman](#)

<sup>224</sup> [Robert Dalgliesh](#)



The Session having met in terms of the Act of Assembly, to receive and consider objections, if any, to the ordination of Messrs Hayman, Thomson, Reid and Dalgleish as Elders, and there having been none offered, did and hereby do authorize the Moderator to proceed with their ordination in due form, and in accordance with the laws of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 18<sup>th</sup> June 1854**

*(Same date as above)*

Session met and constituted

Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

The ordination of Messrs Hayman, Thomson, Reid and Dalgleish having been duly proceeded with this day immediately after divine service, in the forenoon, as authorised by the last minute, the Session met thereafter, when the right hand of the fellowship was given to the new members, and their names are therefore ordered to be added to the roll. The Session therefore, at present consists of the following members; viz:- The Revd Mr Murray, Moderator, Messrs James Boyd, John Baird, John McClanachan/

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Page 222

/ Scott, Johnston, Hayman, Thomson, Reid and Dalgleish, Elders.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 17<sup>th</sup> July 1854**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Messrs Boyd, Dalgleish, Thomson, Reid and Scott, Elders.

Compeared William Hamilton and Helen Lees, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 26<sup>th</sup> November 1854**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared William Jamieson and Agnes Hutchison, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 31<sup>st</sup> December 1854**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared Charles McKinna and Janet Nairn, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitable rebuke and admonition from the Moderator, they were restored to the privileges of the Church.

Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

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Page 223 and 224

*(These two pages are on different paper to the main volume and appear to have been added after, and are dated prior, to the previous entries. There appears to have been a falling out between the Session and one of the new Elders.)*

**Cumnock – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1854**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

After the distribution of the tokens The Revd Mr Murray laid before the Session a letter from John Hayman, one of their number, stating his resolution of leaving the Church and charging Mr Murray with want of courtesy towards the Session, and carrying out his own views in spite of their remonstrances. The Session considered that it would be inconsistent with their duty, and with the respect they entertain for Mr Murray, to allow these changes to pass without notice, and they therefore hereby place upon the record their unanimous disapproval of the conduct of Mr Hayman in this matter, and their spontaneous testimony to the utter groundlessness of the above charges.

Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 4<sup>th</sup> December 1854**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

The Session in recurring to the subject in the preceding minute, agree to forebear to proceed further in the matter than to receive the letter of Mr Hayman referred to above (a copy whereof follows) and to accept the same as a resignation of his status as an Elder in this Parish.

(Copy of Letter)

“Cumnock, 31<sup>st</sup> November 1854

Revd Jas Murray

Sir,

I beg to let you know I am no more /

.....  
/one of your hearers from this date from the very uncourteous way you conducted yourself towards your session on Sabbath last, and the very unpopular position you have placed yourself towards your parish, in fixing so unsuitable a day for a day of fasting and prayer, in spite of the remonstrances of all the members of session as a glance around the Square today might convince you.

Yours Respectfully

(signed) John Hayman”

Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock – 25<sup>th</sup> March 1855**

Session met and constituted

Sederunt the Moderator and Elders

Compeared Alexander Miller and Agnes Wilson, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After suitable rebuke and admonition by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 13<sup>th</sup> May 1855**

Session met and constituted

Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared Alexander Wilson and Isabella Finlay, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After suitable rebuke and admonition, they were absolved from the scandal.

Compeared also John Russell and Janet Vallance, confessing themselves guilty of fornication with each other, and also Mary Reggans of the same crime with [unfilled blank space]. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were directed to appear again. Russell being at the same time directed to bring with him a letter of transference from the Session of Auchinleck, which he has not already done.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 4<sup>th</sup> June 1855**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared pro secundo, John Russell and Janet Vallance and Mary Reggans for fornication, the former bringing the document required from the Session of Auchinleck (see last minute). /

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After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Compeared also John McCall for fornication with Christina Cochrane, Mary Cameron for fornication with James McCartney and Barbara Finlay for fornication with William McMillan<sup>225</sup>, the two latter producing acknowledgments of the paternity of their children. After suitable rebuke and admonition, they were directed to appear again.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 15<sup>th</sup> July 1855**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, Barbera Finlay and Mary Cameron for fornication (see last minutes). After being suitably rebuked and admonished, they were absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

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<sup>225</sup> [William McMillan](#)

### **Cumnock – 25<sup>th</sup> July 1855**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared Janet Breckanridge<sup>226</sup>, confessing herself guilty of fornication, and charging Robert Edgar, presently residing with George Crawford in the Townhead, as the father of her child. As the paternity is not acknowledged. The Session deferred consideration of the case until both parties were present. They therefore cited her, apud acta, and directed the clerk to summon the said Robert Edgar before next meeting of Session.

Compeared also, Agnes Scott, residing at Pluck, charging John Nimmo<sup>227</sup>, residing at Woodhead, as the father of a child borne by her in fornication about three years since.

Compeared also, the said John Nimmo, denying the charge. As it appears to the Session that there is no possibility of eliciting the truth from the statements and counter statements of the parties, they resolve to delay consideration of the case until next Session.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1855**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared John Cameron and Margaret Hutchison, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1855**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared William McMillan, confessing that he had been guilty of fornication with Barbara Finlay (see min 4<sup>th</sup> June ult. et seq.). After being suitably rebuked by the Moderator, he was directed to appear again.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 30<sup>th</sup> September 1855**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, William McMillan (see last min). After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, he was absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

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<sup>226</sup> actually [Jean Boyd Breckenridge](#) from daughter Janet Edgar's 1855 BC

<sup>227</sup> [John Nimmo](#)

**Cumnock – 14<sup>th</sup> October 1855**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Red James Murray, Moderator, and Messrs Boyd, McClanachan, Scott, Reid, Thomson and Dalgleish, Elders.

Compeared Janet McCulloch<sup>228</sup>, presently residing at the Roadside, Glaisnock, confessing that she had brough forth a child in fornication and charging Thomas Wilson, son of Thomas Wilson, contractor, Glaisnock Roadside, as the father. As the said Thomas Wilson denies the paternity, the Session order the Clerk to cause him to be summoned to appear before them on the evening of Thursday first, at eight o'clock to answer the charge. They also summon the said Janet McCulloch, apud acta, to compear at the same time. The meeting to be held in the schoolroom.

Compeared also, Margaret McCartney confessing that she had brought forth a child in fornication and charging Thomas Wilson, lately a provision dealer and spirit-dealer in Cumnock, as the father of the child. As she had no acknowledgement of the paternity, but expected to receive one from him in the course of a few days, she was directed to appear again at the time and place above mentioned.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 18<sup>th</sup> October 1855**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Red James Murray, Moderator, and Messrs Boyd, Reid, Thomson and Scott, Elders.

Compeared, pursuant to citation, Janet McCulloch, adhering to her former confession and charge. /

/Compeared also Thomas Wilson Junior, denying the charge. Janet McCulloch, being solemnly admonished to tell the truth, stated that the act was committed in the stable of Roadside, and that she and Thomas Wilson were seen there by William Steel, who bade them goodnight, and left them there, on the night in question, being the night following Cumnock race in 1854.

Thomas Wilson admitted being in her company at the time and place stated, but denied he had had connexion with her at that or any other time. The Session, considering the above admission, and also the fact that the birth of the child corresponded with remarkable exactness to the time above specified, are of opinion that a very strong presumption is established in favour of the woman's statement, but defer coming to a final decision until next meeting of Session.

Compeared also Margaret McCartney, adhering to her former confession and charge, but stating she had as yet received no acknowledgement of the paternity of the child. The Session request Mr Reid to confer with Mr Thomas Nicol, as they understand he is at present at Caponacre, and to report to next meeting of Session. They also summon her apud acta to compear at the same time.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

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<sup>228</sup> [Janet McCulloch](#)

**Cumnock – 4<sup>th</sup> November 1855**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Revd Mr Murray, Moderator, and the Elders.

Compeared Janet McCulloch again for fornication. After suitable rebuke and admonition by the/

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/Moderator, she was directed to appear again.

Compeared also Margaret McCartney and Elizabeth Gilfillan for fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock 18<sup>th</sup> November 1855**

Session being met and constituted  
Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared Robert Edgar and Janet Breckanridge for fornication. After suitable rebuke and admonition, they were directed to appear again.

Compeared also, Hannah Galloway<sup>229</sup>, confessing that she had been guilty of fornication with [unfilled space] Weir. After being suitably admonished and rebuked, she was directed to appear again.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1855**

Session met and was constituted.  
Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, Martha<sup>230</sup> Galloway. After being suitably rebuked and admonished, she was absolved from the scandal.

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/Compeared also Agnes Reid, wife of James Neill, confessing that she had been guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock 17<sup>th</sup> February 1856**

Session being met and constituted  
Sederunt The Rev Mr Murray, Moderator, and the Elders.

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<sup>229</sup> [Hannah Galloway](#)

<sup>230</sup> Think this should be Hannah Galloway

Compeared Robert Young and Jane Nisbet, spouses, confessing that they had been guilty of antenuptial fornication. They were suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator and thereafter restored to the privileges of the church.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock 24<sup>th</sup> February 1856.**

Session met and constituted

Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared Janet Dunlop, residing at Lugar, confessing that she has been guilty of fornication with John Wallace, a cousin of her own, who had acknowledged himself the father of her child. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was directed to appear again.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock 17<sup>th</sup> March 1856**

Session met and constituted

Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared John Nimmo and Agnes Scott (see minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> July last), the latter charging the former with being the father of a child which she had brought forth in fornication, and the former denying the charge.

The clerk read a letter addressed to William Thomson, a member of this session, by William Wilson residing at Stairhill, which letter contained and extract from a letter sent to him by Elizabeth Hutchison, whom Agnes Scott had proposed as her only witness in this case, and who declares that she can give no evidence either one way or the other.

There being no further evidence and the Session not being at liberty to put the matter to the woman's oath as this is, in her case, a bilapse in fornication, the session considers the case closed, but they resolve to delay giving a final deliverance thereupon, in the meantime, both in order that they themselves and Nimmo, the person accused as above, may have leisure maturely to consider the matter in their own minds and to arrive at as satisfactory a conclusion as possible in a matter unquestionably very obscure and uncertain.

They direct the clerk at the same time to write out and hand to Nimmo a solemn declaration of his innocence of the charge, that he may take home with him and carefully consider it, previous to his afterwards signing it in the presence of the Session clerk.

Compeared also William Brydan<sup>231</sup> and Catherine McCririck, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication./

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/After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were restored to the privileges of the church.

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<sup>231</sup> [William Bryden](#)

Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock 30<sup>th</sup> March 1856**

Session met and constituted.  
Sederunt the Moderator and the Elders.

Compeared Andrew Bell<sup>232</sup> and Margaret Graham, spouses, requesting to be taken on discipline. As they had lived in concubinage for a considerable time previous to their marriage, and had had three children while so living. The Session find themselves incompetent to deal with the case. They therefore cite them to appear before the Presbytery on Wednesday first, 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 11 o'clock forenoon.

Compeared also William Burnie, confessing that he had been guilty of antenuptial fornication with Helen Ritchie, now his wife. After suitable admonition by the Moderator, he was absolved from the scandal.

The clerk stated that he had been called upon by the sheriff to transmit to him all the available Parochial Registers, in terms of the Act 17 and 18 Vict. Cap. 80 Section 18. The Session have no power to resist an express enactment, but they resolve to record in their minutes their strong feeling of the impolicy of thus removing the registers from the parish.

Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock 19<sup>th</sup> May 1856**

Session being met and constituted.  
Sederunt the Rev Mr Murray, Moderator, and Messrs Boyd, Thomson and Scott, Elders.

Compeared John Currie and Agnes Gilmore, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were restored to the privilege of the church.

Compeared again Andrew Bell and Margaret Graham, spouses, as referred to in previous minutes. The Moderator stated that they had appeared before the Presbytery of the Bounds, as ordered, and that, after being suitably rebuked and admonished, they had been remitted to this session to be dealt with according to the rules of the church. After being suitably admonished by the Moderator they were therefore absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock 13<sup>th</sup> July 1856**

Session met and constituted.  
Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

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<sup>232</sup> [Andrew Bell](#)



Compeared Joan Murray, confessing that she had had a child in fornication to James Fram Baird who had acknowledged the paternity. She was rebuked and admonished by the Moderator and directed to appear again.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock 4<sup>th</sup> January 1857**

Session met and constituted  
Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared Robert Goldie<sup>233</sup> and Mary Crawford, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of ante-nuptial fornication.  
Compeared also Robert Cameron<sup>234</sup> and Agnes Baird, confessing themselves guilty of the same fault. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator they were absolved from the scandal.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock 15<sup>th</sup> February 1857**

Session met and constituted  
Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared James Johnson<sup>235</sup> and Margaret Reid, spouses, acknowledging themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After suitable admonition and rebuke, they were absolved from the scandal.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock 1<sup>st</sup> March 1857**

Session met and constituted  
Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared John Muir and Agnes Wood, spouses, acknowledging themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator they were absolved from the scandal.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock 12<sup>th</sup> April 1857**

Session met and constituted the Rev Mr Chrystal of Auchinleck, Moderator pro tempore, and the Elders.

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<sup>233</sup> [Robert Goldie](#)

<sup>234</sup> [Robert Cameron](#)

<sup>235</sup> [James Johnson](#)

Compeared William Hyslop, acknowledging his having been guilty of antenuptial fornication with Agnes Shankland, now his wife. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator he was absolved from the scandal.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator. <sup>236</sup>

**Cumnock – 19<sup>th</sup> April 1857**

Session met and constituted Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared Hugh Crawford<sup>237</sup> and Isabella McClelland, spouses, acknowledging themselves to have been guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator they were absolved from the scandal.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock 8<sup>th</sup> June 1857**

Session met and constituted  
Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared ultroneously Thomas Wilson (see minutes Oct 14<sup>th</sup> 1855) stating that although he could not and would not acknowledge himself the father of the child with the paternity of which he had been charged by Jane<sup>238</sup> McCulloch, yet now he did not deny that he had been guilty of fornication with her. The session, considering that the question of paternity is one of a civil nature and therefore not necessary to be determined by them are willing to admit him to discipline on the ground of his acknowledgment of guilt. They therefore authorise the Moderator to rebuke and admonish him in their name. This was accordingly done by the Moderator in the presence of the Session and he was therefore informed that he need not appear again.

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Compeared also Lawson Crichton<sup>239</sup> and Isabella Morgan, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. They were accordingly rebuked and admonished by the Moderator and thereafter absolved from the scandal.  
The Moderator stated that he had inadvertently directed a Thomas Wilson not to come back again, but on reflection he found that it would be necessary for him to do so. The Session therefore direct intimation to be given him to that effect.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock 16<sup>th</sup> August 1857**

Session met and constituted Sederunt, the Moderator, and Elders.

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<sup>236</sup> James Murray shown as signed, despite the Moderator being Mr Chrystal)

<sup>237</sup> [Hugh Crawford](#)

<sup>238</sup> elsewhere referred to as Janet

<sup>239</sup> [Lawson Crichton](#)

Compeared Archibald French<sup>240</sup> and Jane Parker, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After suitable admonition by the Moderator they were absolved from the scandal.

Compeared also John Johnson<sup>241</sup> and Jane Mitchell McMillan, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator they were absolved from the scandal.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock 1<sup>st</sup> November 1857**

Session met and constituted  
Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared Elizabeth Strathearn<sup>242</sup> confessing that she had been guilty of the sin of fornication with [unfilled space] After being admonished by the Moderator, she was directed to appear again.

Compeared also Janet Brackenridge<sup>243</sup> declaring that she had been guilty of the sin of fornication with William Mitchell, lately deceased. The Session, considering the case to be surrounded with a good deal of difficulty and uncertainty resolve to delay for some time the further consideration of it, to give the young woman time for mature and serious reflection.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock 22nd November 1857**

Session met and constituted Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Compeared again, Elizabeth Strathearn for the sin of fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was absolved from the scandal.

Compeared again also Janet Brackenridge, adhering to her former statement. The Session request the Moderator to consult his brethren of the Presbytery of the course they ought to follow.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock – 6<sup>th</sup> December 1857**

Session met and constituted Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.  
Compeared again Janet Brakenridge for fornication, as stated in the last two minutes. The Moderator reported that he had laid the matter before the Presbytery, and it was their opinion that a committee of the Session should be appointed, to deal

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<sup>240</sup> [Archibald French](#)

<sup>241</sup> [John Johnston](#)

<sup>242</sup> [Elizabeth Strathearn](#)

<sup>243</sup> should be Jane (Boyd) Breckenridge. She is referred to as Jane in subsequent appearance on 17 December 1857

with the woman and to report. They accordingly appointed Messrs Boyd, Dalgleish, Thomson and Scott, Mr Boyd to be Convener.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 13<sup>th</sup> December 1857**

Session met and constituted Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders, except Mr Boyd.

Mr Scott reported that the committee appointed at the last meeting had met on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. and that Jane Brackenridge had compeared before them but the only additional fact they had been able to elicit was that she had consulted Dr Lawrence about her condition at an early stage of her pregnancy and had stated to him then that the young man Mitchell was the father of the child of which she was pregnant.

The Session, taking this together with the whole circumstances of the case into their serious consideration, unanimously resolve to sist proceedings in this case until God in his Providence shall throw more light upon the matter.

Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock – 20<sup>th</sup> December 1857**

After prayer, the Kirk Session was constituted. Sederunt Mr Wm Thomson, Mr Robert Dalgleish, Mr George Reid, Elders, Revd Robert E Murray, Moderator pro tem.

Compeared Robert Gibson and wife Isabella Johnston, and George Simpson and Jessie Merry confessing that they are guilty of the sin of antenuptial uncleanness; and also John Barr and Margaret Murdoch, confessing that they are guilty of the sin of fornication; and after being suitably admonished the former Robert Gibson and Isabella Johnstone and George Simpson and Jessie Merry were absolved: the latter John Barr and Margaret Murdoch were instructed to compear a second time.

Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 27<sup>th</sup> December 1857**

Session met and constituted  
Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders except Mr Boyd.

Compeared again John Barr and Margaret Murdoch for fornication. Compeared also Andrew Kay and Helen McClanachan, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock – 14<sup>th</sup> February 1858**

The Session being met and constituted, after prayer

Sederunt The Revd Robert E Murray of New Cumnock Moderator pro tem, and all the Elders except Messrs Thomson and McClanachan.

Compeared Robert Smith and Janet Miller, spouses, confessing that they had been guilty of the sin of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator they were absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 14<sup>th</sup> March 1858**

Session met and constituted

Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders except Mr McClanachan.

Compeared John McGee confessing that he had been guilty of antenuptial fornication with Margaret Faulder, no his wife. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock – 4<sup>th</sup> April 1858**

Session met and constituted

Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders except Messrs Dalglish and McClanachan.

Compeared pro secundo Joan Murray for fornication with James Fram Baird (see Min 13<sup>th</sup> July 1856). After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

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**Cumnock – 18<sup>th</sup> April 1858**

Session met and constituted

Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders.

Compeared Agnes McClymont, acknowledging that she had been guilty of the sin of fornication with Alexander Robb. After being suitably admonished and rebuked, she was directed to appear again.

The case of Agnes McKnight was, at her request, remitted to the Kirk Session of New Cumnock.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock - May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1858**

Session being met and constituted by prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

The Moderator reported that William Lamont residing at Holmhead, had applied to him with a view to being taken on discipline for fornication. As it is a case of trilapse, however, the Session find themselves incompetent to deal with it. They therefore

remit the matter to the Presbytery of the bounds, direct him to be cited to compear before them on Wednesday first, the 5<sup>th</sup> inst.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock - 7<sup>th</sup> May 1858**

Session being met and constituted by prayer.  
Sederunt the Revd Mr Murray Moderator and Messers Boyd, Thomson and Scott, Elders.

Compeared again Agnes McClymont for the sin of fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was absolved from the scandal.

Compeared also Peter McConnel and Agnes McVitie, spouses, confessing that they had been guilty of the sin of antenuptial fornication./

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/After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock - 13<sup>th</sup> May 1858**

Session being met and constituted by prayer.  
Sederunt the Moderator and Messers Boyd, Thomson and Scott, Elders.

Compeared pro sec. Matthew Regans confessing that he had been guilty of fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was absolved from the scandal.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator.

**Cumnock - 8<sup>th</sup> June 1858**

Session being met and constituted by prayer.  
Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders, except Messrs Dalgleish and McClanachan.

Compeared William Latta residing at Darmalloch, confessing that he had been guilty of the sin of fornication three years ago with [unfilled blank] After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was directed to appear again.

Compeared also Andrew Colquhoun and Martha Bold, stating that they had contracted an irregular marriage before a Justice of the Peace, and requesting to be taken on discipline for the same with a view to their admission to Church privileges. As the said parties were both married previously, and as in the case of the woman, there is no evidence of the death of her former husband, though she alleges that he died sometime previous to the contraction of her marriage with Colquhoun, the Session find that they are not in a position to take them until such evidence as will satisfy them be forthcoming. They therefore direct the Clerk to communicate with/

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/the Parish Clergyman of Newton-Limavady in Ireland, in which neighbourhood her first marriage, and the death of her first husband are said to have taken place, and requesting him to have the goodness to make such enquiries as may tend to remove their doubts on the subject.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock - 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1858**

Session being met and constituted by prayer. Sederunt the Moderator and Messers Boyd, Thomson and Scott, Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, William Latta and William Clarke for fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

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### **Cumnock - 26<sup>th</sup> September 1858**

Session met and constituted.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders, except Mr McClanachan.

Compeared George Dalziel and Margaret Reid, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock - January 16<sup>th</sup> 1859**

Session met and constituted

Sederunt the Revd Mr Murray, Moderator, and all the Elders except Mr McClanachan.

Compeared James Smith and Agnes Hamilton, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 13<sup>th</sup> February 1859**

Session met and constituted

Sederunt the Revd Robert E. Murray of New Cumnock, Moderator, pro tempore, and Messrs Boyd, Dalgleish, Thomson, Reid and Scott, Elders,

The Clerk reported that he had been requested to cause Proclamation of Banns to be made in order to marriage betwixt Robert Davidson<sup>244</sup> and Agnes Boswell, both residing in this parish, that the said/  
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<sup>244</sup> [Robert Davidson](#)

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/Proclamation of Banns had been made accordingly and that Mary Barr, residing in Ochiltree had protested against the said proclamation, and against the issuing of any certificate of proclamation in favour of the above Robert Davidson and Agnes Boswell on the ground that the said Robert Davidson is already married to her the said Mary Barr.

The Session taking the above into consideration, unanimously resolve to appoint the following members of Session, viz:- Messrs Boyd, Scott, Reid, Thomson and Dalgleish as a committee of their number, to meet at such times and places as may be convenient, for the purpose of hearing parties, and of receiving such evidence as either of them may have to bring forward in this case, and to refer it to the Session. They also resolve to adjourn this meeting until a day to be afterwards fixed, when the above committee will bring forward their report, and the Session will then proceed to consider the same, and to act in the matter as the circumstances may seem to require.

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**Cumnock – 14<sup>th</sup> February 1859**

The Committee of the Kirk Session met this day, present Messrs Boyd, Thomson, Dalgleish and Scott. Mr Boyd was unanimously appointed Preses.

Compeared ultroneously Mary Barr and Robert Davidson, as mentioned in the minute of the 13<sup>th</sup> inst., and the former, being interrogate whether she adhered to her protest, and to the allegation on which it is founded, replied that she did. Robert Davidson then being interrogate whether he admitted or denied that he and the said Mary Barr were already legally married, denied the truth of said statement. Mary Barr being then interrogate whether she had any evidence to produce in support of her statement, produced the three letters purporting to be signed by the said Robert Davidson, and addressed to her by him, and which are marked in the order of their dates (February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1856, May 21<sup>st</sup> 1857, and May 28<sup>th</sup> 1857) with the initials of the Preses and the numbers One, Two, Three respectively. The letters having been read by Mr Scott, as Clerk to the Committee, the Committee were unanimously of opinion that they contain distinct and indubitable evidence of the fact that it was at one time the intention of the parties to marry each other, but that they do not contain any proof of a marriage having been already contracted betwixt them.

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Mary Barr thereupon stated that she had witnesses to produce in support of her allegation and that she would be prepared to hand a list of their names to the Committee on or before Thursday first. The Committee has therefore agreed to meet again on Thursday evening, the 17<sup>th</sup> current, at Mr Boyd's house at half past eight o'clock to receive the said list and to take steps for causing the witnesses to be regularly summonsed.

**Cumnock -17th February 1859**

The Committee of the Kirk Sessions met this evening. Present Messrs Boyd, Thomson and Scott.

Mr Boyd was appointed Preses, the Clerk laid before the Committee a letter from Mary Barr, containing a list of witnesses whom she desires to be summoned before



the Session for her behoof, in her case against Robert Davidson. These witnesses are as follows, viz:-

- Mr Hugh Wales, Innkeeper, Kilmarnock
- Mr Hugh Davidson, Miner, Cumnock
- Mr Robert Vallance, Tea Merchant, Cumnock
- Mr James Pollock, Miner, Cumnock
- Mr James Pollock, Cumnock<sup>245</sup>

The Committee direct the Clerk to furnish Mr Robert Davidson with a list of the witnesses as above, and to cause them/

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/ to be duly summoned to compear before a meeting of Session to be held on Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst, at half past one PM, in the parish school if Mr Murray's health permit, or at the Manse if he cannot venture out.

### **Cumnock – 25<sup>th</sup> February 1859**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Messrs Boyd, Thomson, Dalgleish and Scott, Elders.

Compeared Robert Richmond<sup>246</sup> and Mary Brydon, spouses, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Compeared James Nicol confessing himself guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, he was absolved from the scandal.

Compeared, also, Jacobina McClelland confessing that she had brought forth a child in fornication, and stating that James Dunsmore, the father of the child, had acknowledged the paternity. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was directed to appear again at the next meeting of Session.

Compeared Mary Barr and Robert Davidson, and the former being interrogate as to whether/

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/she adhered to her allegation anent Robert Davidson, replied that she did. Being further interrogate whether she was resolved to prosecute this matter further, replied that she was. Being further interrogate whether she had been seen in such circumstances with him as to lead to the inference that they were man and wife, replied that she had. Being interrogate what witness she desired to call first, replied that she wished to call Mrs Vallance.

The Committee appointed at last meeting of Session then brough forward their report, which was read and ordered to be engrossed in the minute book.

Jean Brown or Vallance being then called, compeared, and being sworn, purged of malice, and interrogate as to whether she remembered having seen the parties together as man and wife, replied that on one occasion when Mary Barr was staying

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<sup>245</sup> [Margaret Miller](#)

<sup>246</sup> [Robert Richmond](#)

at her house, somebody came to the window and knocked about two or three o'clock in the morning, and on asking who was there, she recognised the voice as that of Robert Davidson. She accordingly let him in, and as he was proceeding to go into the bed where Mary Barr was lying, she ordered him to come out instantly. He afterwards attempted to enter into the bed a second time, when she again ordered him to come out, telling him that he was the worst bred man she ever saw. Being further interrogate whether Robert Davidson had ever in her presence acknowledged Mary Barr as his wife, replied/

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/that on one occasion when the parties were taking tea in her house, he said to her "Here is Barr, my wife, it would have been better had we married sooner." Being further interrogate if she thought he was serious in calling her his wife, replied that she did not, but thought that it was all words of course. Being interrogate, at the request of Robert Davidson whether he was sober on the two occasions referred to, replied that on the first occasion he was drunk, but on the second he was sober. Being interrogate whether she has anything further to state, declares she has not and that the above is the truth. Declares that she cannot write and requests the Moderator to sign for her.

Compeared Margaret Miller<sup>247</sup>, wife of James Pollock, miner, Cumnock, and being sworn, purged of malice and interrogate whether she ever saw Robert Davidson and Mary Barr together as they ought not to have been unless they had been man and wife, Replied that she had seen them in bed together. Being interrogate how it came to pass that she permitted such a thing in her house, Replied that on the night when James Pollock and she were married, that is, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, 1855, both James Pollock and Robert Davidson were the worse of drink, and that was the reason of it. Being interrogate whether<sup>248</sup> she had seen them in bed together on any other occasion, Replied that she had. /

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/that on the night following the day on which Mary Barr's case was decided before the Justices, in March 1858, they were in bed together in her house. Being interrogate whether she considered them to be man and wife on the occasions referred to, replied she did not. Being interrogate whether she had ever heard Robert Davidson acknowledge Mary Barr as his wife, Replied that she did not but that she had heard him say that he etttled to be married. Being asked by Robert Davidson whether he stated that it was on Mary Barr that he etttled to be married, replied that it was. Being interrogate whether she had remonstrated with him on these occasions as to the impropriety of their conduct, Replied that she thinks she did, but cannot specify what words she used. Being interrogate whether she had anything further to say, declares she has not, and that the above is the truth. Declares that she cannot write, and requests the Moderator to sign for her.

Compeared Hugh Davidson, brother of Robert Davidson, and being sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel, and interrogate whether he recollected of any person saying in his presence that Robert Davidson and Mary Barr were married, replied that he had no recollection of such. Being further interrogate whether he had ever

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<sup>247</sup> [Margaret Miller](#)

<sup>248</sup> [William Brown](#)

heard his brother acknowledge Mary Barr as his wife, Replied that on one occasion, the date of which he cannot remember, but thinks it must be more than a year ago, in the house of Hugh Wales, InnKeeper, Kilmarnock, on the said Hugh Wales asking Robert Davidson who this was that was with him, Robert Davidson replied that it was his wife. Being further interrogate whether he believed the parties were then man and wife, Replied that he did not, but considered the expression such as young folks often use without any serious meaning. Being interrogate whether he has anything further to state, declared that he has not, and that this is the truth.

The Session thereafter resolved to adjourn to Wednesday first at 11 o'clock, and directed the witnesses Hugh Pollock and James Wales to be cited, pro secundo, to appear at the manse on the above mentioned day.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator.

### **Cumnock – 27<sup>th</sup> February 1859**

Session met and constituted

Sederunt the Revd John Rankine of Sorn, Moderator, pro tempore, and Messrs Boyd, Reid, Thomson, Dalgleish and Scott, Elders.

Compeared Jean Samson, presently residing in Mauchline, confessing that she had brought forth twin children in fornication, and charging James Murray of the Dumfries Arms Hotel, here, as the father. Being asked if he had acknowledged the paternity, she replied that he had not, but that he had sent her money for their maintenance. Being asked if she had any evidence to produce in support of her statement, she replied that some time after the children were born, her brother wrote to Mr Murray with reference to them, but received no answer, that she then wrote to him herself and that on the Saturday following the day on which she wrote, (which was on a Monday) she received by post an envelope sealed and addressed to her, enclosing Five Pounds, and having Mr Murray's name written inside. She stated further that she wrote to him again on a subsequent occasion, on a Tuesday, and again on the Saturday following she received by post a sealed envelope addressed to her, enclosing Five Pounds, and also a blank slip of paper bearing Mr Murray's name. These envelopes she laid before the Session, who ordered them to be kept *in retentis*, and requested the Moderator sign and number them for future identification. After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, she was cited *apud acta* to appear again on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> March next at 2 o'clock PM. The Session thereafter directed the Clerk to wait upon Mr Murray privately, to converse with him on the subject and ascertain if he admits or denies the charge brought against him, and to report to the Session.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator

### **Cumnock – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1859**

Session met, pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted.

Sederunt the Moderator and Messrs Boyd, Thomson and Scott, Elders.

Compeared Mary Barr and Robert Davidson, as per former minutes, the former adhering to her allegation and the latter denying it.

Compeared James Pollock, miner, Cumnock, who being sworn, purged of malice,/

/ and interrogate whether he was aware that Robert Davidson and Mary Barr were related to each other as lad and lass, Replied that he was. Being further interrogate, whether he had ever heard Robert Davidson acknowledge Mary Barr as his wife, Replied that he never heard any such acknowledgement. Being interrogate whether he had ever seen them together as only a man and wife ought to be, Replied that he had seen them in bed together, and that this happened on his own wedding night. Declares further that he and Robert Davidson were both the worse of drink. Being interrogate whether he had seen them on any other occasion, replied that he had seen them in bed on another subsequent occasion, but could not say positively whether Robert Davidson was undressed or not; he thought he had his trousers on. Being asked of Robert Davidson whether he recollected of Mary Barr coming into bed to him (Davidson) in the room in his mother's house, replied that he did. Being asked at what time of the day this happened, replied that it was after coming from seeing a neighbour of Mary Barr away on the half past six train. Being interrogate as to the time at which these occurrences happened, Replied that /

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/the first was on the night of his own marriage which happened on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1855, and that he did not remember the precise time of the second occurrence, but was sure it more than six months ago. Being requested to consider and to endeavour to fix the date as precisely as possible, and being further asked whether it was before or about the time of the Justice of the Peace Court in March last, Replied that it was on the night of the court day. Being further asked whether he had any further evidence to give on this subject, that he has not, and that the above is the truth.

The Clerk laid before the Session a letter addressed to him by Hugh Wales, Rainbow Hotel, Kilmarnock, which was read, and ordered to be kept in retentis. In the said letter, Mr Wales declares that he has seen the parties in his house, but he was not aware that they were married persons. Mary Barr being asked whether she was satisfied with the statement of Mr Wales, as contained in the letter, replied that she was not. She requested to know however if she would be allowed a day or two to consider the propriety of withdrawing her objection and protest, and she was informed by the Moderator, in the name/

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/of the Session that there was no wish on the part of the Session as a body, or of any individual member, to hurry her to a conclusion, but that she would be allowed what time she might consider necessary to consider her case and to consult such friends as she might find it advisable to consult.

The Session thereafter resolved to meet on Saturday week, the 12<sup>th</sup> current, at two o'clock PM in the schoolroom.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator

### **Cumnock - 12<sup>th</sup> March 1859**

Session met and constituted

Sederunt the Moderator and Messrs Boyd, Thomson and Scott, Elders.

Compeared Jacobina McClelland, pro secundo, for fornication. After having been suitably admonished by the Moderator, she was absolved from the scandal.

Compeared Robert Davidson and Mary Barr, the former continuing to deny, and the latter adhere to, her allegation and protest.  
The Clerk produced a letter from/

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/Mary Barr, dated February the 7<sup>th</sup> 1859 (where February appears to be written by mistake for March) in which she states she does not feel inclined to withdraw her objections, and that she does not mind about Mr Wales coming to give his evidence. The Session however, for their own satisfaction are desirous to have Mr Wales examined, and they direct the Clerk to Communicate with the Session Clerk with a view to his being summoned pro tertio to compeare before them on Thursday first, the 17<sup>th</sup> current, at 5 o'clock PM within the Parish schoolroom.

Compeared Jean Samson pro secundo, for fornication, and adhering to her charge against James Murray as the father of her children. Mr Scott stated that he had waited on Mr Murray and informed him that Jean Samson had brought the above charge against him, requesting also to know whether he admitted or denied the same. He stated that Mr Murray denied the charge.  
The session direct Mr Scott to see/

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/Mr Murray again, and to state to him that the question of paternity is not that which the Kirk Session requires to take cognizance of, but the question of guilt, which the other may or may not be connected. After ascertaining whether or not he acknowledges the guilt, he is to report to a future meeting of session.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator

**Cumnock - 17<sup>th</sup> March 1859**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and Messrs Boyd, Thomson and Scott, Elders.

Compeared Mary Barr ut supra, Robert Davidson was called but did not compear.

Compeared Hugh Wales, InnKeeper, who being sworn, purged of malice and interrogate, depones:- that he has seen Robert Davidson and Mary Barr in his house, but cannot recollect the date. Depones further that he asked Robert Davidson who this was with him, whether it was the wife, and that he/

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/ received no answer at that time from either of the parties. Depones that the above happened in his house on a forenoon, and that the parties left before mid-day, all being quite sober. Depones further, that he had no idea of any marriage, regular or irregular, existing betwixt the parties, but that he was led to put the question to Robert Davidson from the fact of Mary Barr having a child with her. Being further interrogate as to the reason of his not appearing on the first and second summons, depones that the first was on a Friday, a day on which he could not leave home, being the market day at Kilmarnock, and on the second occasion he thought he

could throw no light on the matter by appearing, and wrote to the Session Clerk to that effect.

Being interrogate at the request of Mary Barr, whether he recollected of saying anything to Mrs Muir, Robert Davidson's sister, about the parties being married, depones that he has no recollection of making any remarks about it. Depones that he can give no information on the matter further, and that the above is the truth. Two words delete before signing.

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Mary Barr, being interrogate as to the time when the visit to Mr Wales's house took place, replied that it was about a fortnight before the New Year of 1858. She stated also that on leaving Mr Wales's house, on their way to the train, either Robert or Hugh Davidson said, "Now Wales really thinks it's a marriage" or words to that effect.

Compeared Jean Brown or Vallance, who being sworn, purged of malice and interrogate whether she had any recollection of the acknowledgement by Robert Davidson of Mary Barr as his wife, until reminded of it by Mary Barr, replied that she did recollect it, but that she did not remember the date of it, until put in mind of it. Being further interrogate as to the dates of the circumstances to which she deponed, she stated that she could not speak precisely but that she had no doubt that Mary Barr's statement was correct, viz:- that the acknowledgement took place about two days about/

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two days (*sic*) after the date of the letter in which he speaks of the house being taken, and the affair of his attempting to get into her bed was about the 21<sup>st</sup> November 1858. Being asked if Robert Davidson acknowledged Mary Barr as his wife on the latter occasion, replied that he did not. Declares she knows nothing further of the matter, and the above is the truth. Declares she cannot write and requests the Moderator to sign for her. One word inserted in margin before signing. Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator

### **Cumnock – 26<sup>th</sup> March 1859**

Session met and was constituted, Sederunt the Revd James Murray, Moderator and Messrs Boyd, Thomson and Reid, Elders.

The Session having resumed consideration of the case of Mary Barr, Ochiltree, objector to a proclamation of Banns in order to marriage between Robert Davidson, miner, and Agnes Boswell, both residing in Cumnock, with the proof adduced by the objector to shew that a previous contract of marriage had been entered into between her and Davidson, together with all the relevant documents – unanimously agree/

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/to dismiss the plea, as being totally unsustainable by sufficient proof; and they hereby direct the Clerk to proceed with the deferred proclamation of banns, and give an extract of the same, in all due form, when required.

They also reserve to themselves the power of such subsequent dealings with Mary Barr, as may after further consideration, seem advisable.

Against this decision Mary Barr protested and appealed to the Presbytery, took instruments in the Clerk's hands and craved extracts.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator

**Cumnock – 10<sup>th</sup> April 1859**

Session met and was constituted, Sederunt the Revd James Murray, Moderator and Messrs Boyd, Thomson, Reid, Dalgleish and Scott, Elders.

Compeared William Miller and Eliza Brown, spouses, confessing that they had been guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator

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**Cumnock – June 25<sup>th</sup> 1859**

Session met and was constituted, Sederunt the Revd James Murray, Moderator and Messrs Boyd, Dalgleish, Thomson, Reid and Scott, Elders.

The Session proceeded to distribute tokens of admission to the Lord's Table at the approaching Communion on Sabbath first.

The Clerk laid before the Session a letter signed by Mary Barr, in which she withdraws her protest against the finding of the Session in her case against Robert Davidson, and her appeal to the Presbytery.

The Session, taking the above into consideration, and finding that both the parties concerned in the above case have now acquiesced in their decision, direct the Clerk to furnish Robert Davidson with a certificate of proclamation of Banns in order to marriage betwixt him and Agnes Boswell when he shall apply for the same.

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**Cumnock – 14<sup>th</sup> August 1859**

Session met and constituted, Sederunt the Revd Mr Murray, Moderator and Messrs Thomson, Boyd, Dalgleish, Reid, Elders.

Compeared Agnes Hutchison confessing that she had borne a child in fornication, and charging Thomas White with the paternity thereof. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was directed to appear again at a future meeting of Session.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator

**Cumnock – 24<sup>th</sup> August 1859**

Session met and was constituted, Sederunt the Revd Mr Murray, Moderator and Messrs Thomson, Boyd, Reid and Scott, Elders.

Compeared, pro secundo, Agnes Hutchison for fornication. After being suitably admonished by the Moderator, she was absolved from the scandal.

The Moderator laid before the Session a letter from the Revd Mr Fairlie of Mauchline, relative to the case of Jean Samson, and suggesting a transfer of the case to the

Session of Mauchline. The Session considering that it will be more convenient for the woman to appear there, and that the only evidence appearing to bear upon the matter must come from parties /

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/resident in Mauchline, resolve to hand the matter over to the Kirk Session there, to be dealt with them according to the rules of the Church.

The Kirk officer, having stated that his present salary is inadequate, the Session, after some consideration, resolve to delay deciding upon an increase until a fuller meeting.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator

### **Cumnock – 28<sup>th</sup> August 1859**

Session met and was constituted

Sederunt the Revd Mr Murray, Moderator and all the Elders except Mr Boyd.

Compeared William Kirkland<sup>249</sup> and Jane Kay, confessing themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator

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### **Cumnock – 20<sup>th</sup> November 1859**

Session met and was constituted, Sederunt the Revd Mr Murray, Moderator and Messrs Thomson, Boyd, Thomson, Reid and Dalgleish, Elders.

Compeared Janet Reid, confessing that she had been guilty of fornication with John Steel, residing in New Cumnock. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, she was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator

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### **Cumnock – 20<sup>th</sup> November 1859**

Session met and was constituted

Sederunt the Revd Mr Murray, Moderator and Messrs Boyd, Thomson, Reid, Dalgleish, Elders.

Compeared, Janet Reid confessing she had been guilty of fornication with John Steel residing in New Cumnock.

After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator she was directed to appear again at next meeting of Session.

Sederunt closed with prayer.

James Murray, Moderator

### **Cumnock – 27<sup>th</sup> November 1859**

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<sup>249</sup> [William Kirkland](#)



Session met and was constituted  
Sederunt the Revd Mr Murray, Moderator and Messrs Boyd, Reid, Thomson,  
Dalglish and Scott, Elders.

Compeared pro secundo, Janet Reid for fornication. After being suitably admonished  
by the Moderator, she was absolved from the scandal.

Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator

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**Cumnock – 8<sup>th</sup> February 1860**

Session met and was constituted  
Sederunt the Revd Mr Murray, Moderator and Messrs Boyd, Thomson and Scott,  
Elders.

Compeared William Clarke<sup>250</sup> and Elizabeth Thomson, spouses, confessing  
themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication.

Compeared Annie Clarkson<sup>251</sup> or, confessing herself guilty of antenuptial fornication.  
After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the Moderator, they were restored  
to the privileges of the Church.

Compeared also John Connell<sup>252</sup> and Janet McMillan, confessing that they had been  
guilty of fornication inter se. After being suitably rebuked and admonished by the  
Moderator, they were directed to appear again at a future meeting of Session.  
Sederunt closed with prayer.  
James Murray, Moderator

End of Volume.

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<sup>250</sup> [William Clarke](#)

<sup>251</sup> [Annie Clarkson](#)

<sup>252</sup> [John Connel](#)