

(The Kirk Session minutes were for a time kept on individual sheets of paper – in 1753, church Elder George McKervail was tasked and paid to rewrite a section from 1742 into a single volume. Some pages are out of order, and there are occasionally random leafs inserted.)

The Scotland's People website shows that there are no marriage records in Old Cumnock prior to 1759, no records of burials prior to 1784 and very limited birth records from about 1704 (the first birth recorded in Cumnock was the baptism of James Hamilton on 19/11/1704) until the mid 1730s and so the majority of the 500+ people mentioned in these pages do not appear elsewhere in official records.

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Cumnock January 30th 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

The Minister reports from the Presbytery that they ordain Hugh Thomson and Mary Fleeming to be summoned to compear befor them at Muirkirk on Thursday come eight days, the Session accordingly appoints them to be cited against Thursday for that end.

Cumnock February 3rd 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Templeton, George Murdoch, Alex Vallance, George Muir, Andrew Wilson, George Mckairtney and John Vallance.

Hugh Thomson and Mary Fleeming being called compeared and own'd their being married together and were rebuked for their disorder and produced a pretended certificate of their marriage which carrying no probability with it the Session order their case to be laid before the Presbytery.

Cumnock February 11th 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, Robert Douglass, Andrew Hodge, Alexander Johnston, Alexander Drummond, Elders and James Howat, Deacon.

This day the Session appoint their officer to cite Hugh Thomson and Mary Fleeming to compear befor the Presbytery at Muirkirk on Thursday first.

Cumnock March 6th 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

The Minister reports from the Presbytery that Hugh Thomson and Mary Fleeming having been cited according to appointment were called and not compearing were appointed to be cited to compear befor them pro secundo. The Session therefor appoint their Officer to cite them to compear befor them next Lord's Day for that effect.

There being a flagrant report that Hugh Sampson and Isbell McMichael have gone away & been married irregularly.

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The session order the Officer to Summond them to compear befor the Session next Lord's Day.

Cumnock March 13th 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

This day Hugh Thomson and Mary Fleeming were call'd compeared were cited peremptorily to compear befor the Presbytery at Ayr, the sixteenth of March instant.

Hugh Sampson and Isbell McMichael being called compeared and own'd their being irregularly married and declared their adherence to one another as married persons were rebuked the evidence of their marriage demanded and they saying that they had it not along with them were appointed to produce it next Lord's Day.

Cumnock March April 3rd 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Wilson and George McKairtney.

This day the Minister reports from the Presbytery that Hugh Thomson and Mary Fleeming compeared not according to appointment and that the Presbytry appoint them to be cited befor them pro tertio, the Session therefor order their (Officer) to cite them befor them gainst next Lord's Day for that effect.

Hugh Samson and Isbell McMichael not having compeared this day with the certificate of their marriage the Session appoint them to be cited gainst Lord's Day next.

Cumnock April 10th 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Templeton and Andrew Wilson.

Hugh Sampson being call'd compeared but not Isbele McMichael and the certificate of his marriage being call'd for a second time he said his mother had it a keeping and was not yet come home the

Session therefor appoint him to compear before them next Lord's Day with his certificate and order the officer to cite Isbell McMichael.

Hugh Thomson & Mary Fleeming being call'd compeared not the Session therefor appoint them to be cited befor them gainst next Lord's Day pro 2ndo.

The Session being informed of Janet Aird her beating her mother Jean Thomson and that it may be proven by the following witnesses viz; John Sloan, Indweller in Cumnock, & Marion Howat his spouse, Jean Kissock & James Gilchrist her son, and Janet Sampson, all Indweller in Cumnock. The Session therefor order their officer to cite the above Janet Aird and Jean Thomson and the above witnesses.

The Session being informed that Anne Hair a woman of bad fame & under scandal her having been found in a change house with suspect company long after bed time and of her having railed on a gentleman for his finding fault with her for being there. The Session in the meantime till they get further intelligence order her to be cited next Lord's day.

Cumnock April 17th 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George McKairtney.

Hugh Samson being cited called compeared not, he having been cited peremptorily & therefor contumacious his case is to be laid befor Presbytery, Isbell McMichael being also called compeared not, and therefor is ordered to be cited gainst next Lord's Day pro tertio.

Hugh Thomson and Mary Fleeming being called compeared and were cited apud acta to compear before the Presbytery at Ayr on Wednesday come eight days being the twinty seventh day of April current pro tertio.

Jean Thomson being called compeared and also Janet Aird her daughter.

Jean Thomson being interrogate if her daughter beat her or offered any manner of violence to her denied and said she had sometimes said so but that it was not true, and Janet Aird also denied her ever beating or offering any violence to her mother except taking her and felling her down when her mother was like to fell her. The Session therefor proceed to examine the witnesses that were cited.

Compeared John Slowan (John Sloan), James Gilchrist, Kean Kissock, Janet Samson. Nothing objected against any of them.

John Slowan aged about fifty four years, married and solemnly sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel depones that one time since

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Martinmass last, he saw them both knocking one another with their neeves*, and another time about a fourtnight ago, he saw them knocking one another with a peat in each of their hands, and

this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subscibitur John Sloan, John Steel, Moderator, Robert Douglass, session Clerk.

**neevs – clenched fists*

Jean Kissock aged about 50 years solemnly sworn purged of malice and partial counsel depones that since Candlemass last she saw the said Janet Aird take a veal's head which her mother which her mother had laid down at the fireside and beat her mother with it till she was forced to fly the house. Depones also that after harvest last she saw her beat her mother and pull her down and when deponent reproved her she swore she would give her as much and threw an old rusty kaill* whither the back whereof so hurt her viz: the Deponents knee that she could not stirr for some time. And this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Sic subscibiture Jean Kissock. John Steel, Moderator. Robert Douglass, Session Clerk.

James Gilchrist aged about nineteen years unmarried solemnly sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel depones that one day about eight or nine weeks ago he saw the said Janet Aird take up her hand an cuff her mother about the face and depones that this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subscibiture, James Gilchrist. John Steel, Moderator. Robert Douglas, Session Clerk.

Janet Samson aged about twenty years being solemnly sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel depones that as she was going by Jean Thomson's house one day after harvest she heard a great noise and went in and saw Janet Aird throw a firey peat at her mother, which did not hit her but the fire went from it about her and that Janet sware that if her mother did not mind her manners she would hang her before tomorrow and that this is the truth as she shall answer to God and depones she cannot write. And desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Sub scribitur – Robert Douglass, Session Clerk. John Steel, Moderator.

Compeared William Slowan & no objection against him said he could not tell his age or near about it for which the Session cited him apud acta to compear next Lord's Day and ordered him to enquire against that time.

The Session excused Marion Houat by reason of her sickness but orders the officer to cite her also to the said diet.

**kaill – most of references to the word kail I have found shows it to mean a type of cabbage, which is clearly not correct here. It could be a variant of "kyle" which refers to a nine pin or skittle, but can mean a cotton bobbin from a spinning machine, due to the similarity in shape. A later entry records that Janet Aird attacked her mother with a broach – a spindle – so the weaving connection might be correct.*

The word might also be a misspelling of kuill, short for kuillet, which was a small tin pail, which perhaps makes more sense in this context.

Ann Hair being called compeared and said that about three or four weeks ago she went into Andrew Muir's house with one Christian Wilson in Mauchline before nine of the clock at night and in a very little time after, James Campbell brother to the Laird of Horsecleugh came in and satt with her & the said Christian Wilson, Andrew Muir and his wife being present, till about one or two of the clock in the morning. Hector Monro, barber in this toun first and Mr Montgomerie, excise officer & James Fergusson, chapman in Cumnock about quarter of an hour after the said Hector all about one or two a clock in the morning came and found them sitting as aforesaid in the said change house drinking. The Session summoned her apud acta against next Lord's Day and appoint James Campbell to be cited by the Officer against that time in regard of a process of uncleanness being depending betwixt them and he denying and having appealed from the Presbytery to the synod, the said three persons who came in with Andrew Muir and his wife are appointed to be cited to the said diet, and the

Minister is to write a line to Mr Maitland Minister in Mauchline to cause cite the said Christian Wilson to the said diet.

Cumnock April 24th 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George McKairtney, George Muir & Andrew Wilson.

Compeared Ann Hair and Christian Wilson from Mauchline, Mr Montgomerie, Hector Monro & Andrew Muir.

James Campbell being cited compeared not.

Session by reason of Mr Campbell's absence delay the examination of the witnesses and cited peremptorily the above persons who compeared and appoint the officer to cite Mr Campbell & James Fergusson & Agnes Donald (two witnesses who were appointed to compear this day but did not compear) to the next Lord's Day.

Hugh Samson and Isbell McMichael being called compeared and this day produced a certificate of their marriage which the Session order to be laid before the Presbytery for advice.

Janet Aird being called compeared but Marion Houat not being yet recovered of her indisposition the Session orders Janet Aird to attend at Marion Houat's house that they may examine the said Marion she not being able to come out.

Marion Houat aged about sixty years, married being solemnly sword, purged of malice and partial counsel depons that she saw Janet Aird about a quarter of a year ago strike her

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Mother upon the head with a team* broach* and when the deponent reproov'd her she was angry at her and depones that this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. (Sic subscripture) Robert Douglass, Session Clerk. John Steel, Moderator.

**team = teem – empty (or to empty out)*

**broach – a spindle for yarn*

William Sloan, aged nineteen, unmarried solemnly sworn, purg'd of malice and partial counsel depones that one day last winter he saw Janet and her mother in hands*, but is not positive whether Janet Aird was beating her mother or not, after that he saw Janet Aird take a knife and cut the yarn her mother was winding and then strike her mother on the side of the head by throwing it at her and deponce that this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subscriptur William Sloan. John Steel, Moderator. Robert Douglass, Session Clerk.

**in hands – grabbing each other*

The Session appoint the case of the above Janet Aird to be laid before the Presbytery for advice.

The alleged scandal of Mary Pearson & John Dunbar having been delayed they this day order the officer to cite them gainst next Lord's Day.

Cumnock May 1st 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Templetoun.

James Campbell being called compeared not.

Ann Hair being called compeared not. The Session appoint the officer to cite James Campbell gainst next Lord's day pro tertio & also Anne Hair who if she does not then compear is to be delated to the Presbytery for contumacy she having been cited peremptorily – and the witnesses who were aduced* the(y) do not call because of Mr Campbell's absence but order them to be cited gainst next Lord's Day. Christian Wilson being called compeared and was cited peremptorily to the said diet.

**aduced = adduced = cited to give evidence*

Mary Pearson being called compeared & adhered to her accusation of George Dumbar who also being called compeared and adhered to his denyall, he persists that her child was brought forth a month after she accused him, the Presbytery is again to be advised anent their case.

The Minister reports from the Presbytery that they order Janet Aird to be cited to compear before the presbytry at Ayr the first Wednesday of June next – and also that they order Hugh Samson and Isbell McMichael to be cited to the said diet.

And also that Hugh Thomson & Mary Fleeming are to be cited from the pulpit to the said dyet having been cited thrice by the Session to the Presbytry & not compearing.

The Session therefor order their officer to cite the above Janet Aird & Hugh Samson & Mary McMichael to the above dyet.

Cumnock May 8th 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George McKairtney, George Muir, Alexander Vallance & Andrew Wilson.

James Campbell being called compeared, Anne Hair also being called compeared.

Mr Campbell being interrogate if (he) had been sitting & drinking with Anne Hair in Andrew Muir's house the time lybelled denyed. The Session, Mr Campbell & Ann Hair agree to the sessions examining them without taking their oath.

Andrew Muir being called compeared and said that Mr Campbell & Anne Hair came into his house and that they sat in his house from nine of the clock at night to fair day light.

Agnes Donald compeared and declares the same – the Session agree to lay this before the presbytry that they may judge of it with the rest of his case.

Cumnock June 5th 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George Muir and Andrew Wilson.

There being a flagrant report of Janet Wight present servant in Robertoun her being with child in uncleanness the Session order the officer to cite her against next Lord's Day.

Cumnock June 12th 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Alexander Johnstoun, Alexander Vallance, George McKairtney & Andrew Wilson.

Janet Wight being called compeared not, the Session order the officer to cite her gainst next Lord's Day.

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Cumnock April 24th 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Wilson and George Muir.

Janet Wight being called compeared & was interrogate if she was with child or had been guilty of uncleanness with any person, at first denyed her being with child or having been guilty of uncleanness with any person but being dealt with she acknowledged her having been guilty of uncleanness with John Gibson in Muirfoot in the paroch of New Cumnock but said she was not sure if she was with child or not. The Session therefor cite her to compear before them gainst next Lord's Day, and appoint George Murdoch one of the members to speak to the Minister of New Cumnock to have the said John Gibson cited to the same dyet.

The Minister reports from the Presbytry that the(y) appoint Janet Aird, Hugh Samson & isbell McMichael to be cited befor them on Wednesday the twinty ninth of June current (they not having compeared upon their last citation) this being for a 2nd time.*

**there is no mention of this appointment in Ayr Presbytery Minutes for this date.*

Cumnock 3^d July 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Alexander Vallance.

Janet Wight being called compeared and adhered to her accusation of John Gibson who being called compeared and denyed guilt with the above Janet Wight. She says the time he was guilty with her was about Candlemass last, the day that William Airthur's plow irons were laid at Muirfoot. John denyes guilt but acknowledges that the same day that William Airthurs plow irons were laid at Muirfoot, being as he says the tenth day of February, he threw her onto a bed and was first in one bed and then in another with her neither of them being naked and several people were then sitting at the fireside in the same room and that he was not guilty with her which she avows he then was.

She Likewise says that eight days after in the same house being George Airthur's in Muirfoot and only the said George's wife being present he took her in his arm and threw her into the bed and was in the bed with her, but does not say he was then guilty with her, he owns that he threw her into the bed but that his feet were always out and denies guilt. The Session delay examining the witnesses til they get further intelligence anent this affair.

Appoints the following committee to meet on Tuesday in order to revise James Houat the Treasurer's accomts, Viz Robert Douglass, Alexander Drummond, Alexander Johnstoun Elders and the Clerk and accordingly to report.

Cumnock September 18th 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, Alexander Johnstoune, Andrew Hodge, George Muir and George Murdoch, Elders. James Houat, Deacon.

Thes Session being informed of John Duncan & Margaret Airthur their having gone away & been married irregularly order the officer to cite them to compear before them next Lord's day.

This day the Session received the report of the Committee appointed for revising James Houat the treasurer's accompts, approving the same and there remains I his hands of good and bad money fourtie three pound twelve shilling, nine pennys Scots, the said revising being the twelfth day of July one thousand seven hundred and thirty seven years.

The Session agree to cite John Dumbar & Mary Pearson to next Lord's day.

Cumnock September 24th 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Wison, George McKairtney, John Vallance.

John Duncan and Margaret Airthur were called & compeared owned their marriage with one another and were rebuked for their disorder and produced a certificate of their marriage.

Mary Pearson being called compeared adhered to her accusation. John Dumbar being called compeared adhered to his denyall. The copy of the oath was read in their hearing which he refused to take into his consideration, upon this he threw down an instrument and desired to have it marked that he would stay no longer here.

Cumnock October 2nd 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnstoune, George Muir Elders.

This day the Session appointed the officer to cite Janet Wight to compear befor the Session of New Cumnock on Sabbath the ninth of October. The Session remitting the case of the above Janet Wight & John Gibson to the said Session where the scandal was committed.

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Cumnock October 10th 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt minister, Alexander Johnstoune, George Muir, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, Elders and James Houat, Deacon.

The minister reports from the Presbytry that they ordered to proceed with James Campbell in the ordinary way and to aggravate his scandal by reproveing him for his sin of fornication for three several times and in the meantime the Session order their officer to cite him gainst next Lord's Day.

Cumnock October 16th 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Hodge & George Muir.

James Campbell being called compeared and now asks to clear himself by oath annent Anne Hair which the Session refer to the Presbytry and desires him to attend there.

The Session agree to cite Hugh Thomson & Mary Fleeming, Hugh Sampson & Isbell McMichael and Janet Aird befor them against next Lord's Day.

Cumnock October 23rd 1737

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George Muir and Alexander Vallance.

Hugh Thomson and Mary Fleeming were called & compeared not.

Hugh Sampson & Isbell McMichael were called, the said High Sampson compeared and was peremptorily cited to compear befor the Presbytry at Ayr on the twinty sixth day of October and says that his wife cannot attend by reason of bodily indisposition.

Janet Aird being called compeared not.

The Session order their officer to cite Hugh Thomson & Mary Fleeming & Janet Aird to compear before the Presbytery at Ayr on Wednesday the twinty sixth day of October.

Cumnock January 8th 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Templetoune & Alexander Vallance.

The Minister reports from the Presbytery that the Session are to oblidge James Campbell either to give his oath befor the Congregation or the Session as they shall see most fit.

And that they should delay the case of Hugh Sampson & Isbell McMichael & Hugh Thomson and Mary Fleeming till they observe their future behaviour.

And that they order Janet Aird to be cited before them gainst Wednesday January 14th 1738.

The Session order their officer to cite Janet Aird for a 2nd time befor the Presbytery at Ayr on Wednesday the 14th of this month agreable to the above report.

Cumnock February 4th 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George McKairtney & George Murdoch.

The Minister having been detained from the presbytery by some business and the Presbytery having got no execution of Janet Aird's summons & the Session being informed that the Presbytery's next meeting is to be at Ayr on Wednesday the 15th they therefor order their officer to cite the above Janet Airt to the said Dyet being yet for a second time.

Cumnock March 5th 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George Muir and John Templetoone.

The executions of Janet Aird's summons not having gone to the Presbytery, the Session order their officer to cite her befor the Presbytery at Ayr on Wednesday the 15th current being pro secundo.

Cumnock April 9th 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Hodge & George McKairtney.

James Campbell being now in the country the Session appoint him to be cited befor them gainst this day fourtnight either to give his oath annent Ann Hair or to subject himself to censure and order the officer to cite Ann Hair to the said Dyet.

Appoints the following committee Viz Mr John Steel, Minister, Robert Douglass, Session Clerk, Robert Douglass & Alexander Johnstoune Elder to meet on Wednesday the 12th current to revise James Houat the Treasurer's accompts and to report.

Cumnock April 23^d 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

This day the committee appointed for reviseing James Houat the treasurer's accompts reports that they revised the same approved and left in in hands of Godd & bad money fifty seven pounds nine shillings Scots on April 12th.

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James Campbell being called compeared and desired to be allowed to go to the Presbytery on Wednesday next, and there to give his oath whereto the Session agreed, but in case he should neglect to go there cited him apud acta to compear before the Session next Lord's Day.

Andrew Wilson is chosen Elder to attend the presbytery for the following half year.

The minister reports by a letter from the presbytery that he was informed that Janet Aird did not compear and that the presbytery appoint her to be cited for a third time befor them on Wednesday the 20th current, the Session appoint their officer to cite her to the said Dyet.

Cumnock April 30th 1738

Session mett and constitute.

This day the minister reports that James Campbell compeared befor the presbytery but they would meddle nothing further in his affair because they had already remitted his case to the session and therefor the Session desires that the minister may advise him by a line to attend next Lord's Day.

And as to the case of Janet Aird that the presbytery not having time to take her case under consideration agreed that it should be the first thing they should go upon at their next meeting.

Cumnock May 7th 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Robert Douglass.

James Campbell not having compeared this day upon the Minister's letter the Session appoint their officer to cite him to compear befor the session next Lord's Day – to which Dyet Ann Hair is likewise to be cited in case he should give his oath.

Cumnock May 14th 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Templetoun, Andrew Hodge, Alexander Vallance and George Muir.

Ann Hair being called compeared continued to accuse James Campbell, who being called compeared adhered to his denyall and desired presently after all the caution that could be given him to have the oath administered to him which was done according to the presbytery's appointment and this the Session ordered to be intimated next Lord's Day at the ordinary time and place to be rebuked for a 2nd time for his other three several scandals of fornication confessed by him.

Cumnock May 21st 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Robert Douglass and James Houat.

James Campbell's deposition was intimated according to appointment but he did not appear in publick whereanent the presbytery is to be informed at their next meeting.

The Session appoint the officer to cite Anne Hair and Mary Pearson to compear before them this day fortnight.

Cumnock June 4th 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, George Murdoch, John Vallance and James Houat.

Anne Hair being called compeared and Mary Pearson being called compeared, they were both appointed to compear in publick next Lord's Day to be rebuked for their sin and scandal of fornication.

The Minister reports from the presbytery that they appoint Janet Aird to be cited before the presbytery from the pulpit to hear herself laid under the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication.

And reports also annent James Campbell that they appoint him to be Laid under the sentence of Lesser Excommunication by the Session and that the same should be intimated to the Congregation, which sentence the Session laid upon him this day.

John Dumbar was Last Lord's Day absolved from the scandal of Mary Pearson, he having produced an extract of his oath befor a Justice of the Peace declaring himself free of her, which by the Session's appointment was this day intimated to the Congregation.

Cumnock June 11th 1738

Ante Meridiem. Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

James Campbell having written from Edinburgh desiring the Session to delay intimating the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication against him till he returned at the ??**rising** of the Session, and that then he would give all satisfaction, tho' his letter was not very discreet the Session agreed to delay & try what his behaviour would be at his return.

Cumnock July 2nd 1738

Ante Meridiem. Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Templetoone.

This day the Session agree that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper should be administered in this place Sabbath come three weeks being the twinty third instant and appoint the same to be intimated to the Congregation this Lord's Day and agree to meet the 15th current to concert their Communion Roll.

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Cumnock July 15th 1738

Members all present except John Templetoone

Session mett after prayer, by several member they agreed upon their Roll which is drawn up in a separate piece of paper.

Cumnock July 18th 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

Anne Hair and Mary Pearson compeared in publick according to appointment June 11th for a first time were rebuked and continued. They compeared also in publick for a 2nd time and were rebuked for their sin of fornication the 18th of June. They compeared also in publick and were rebuked and continued June 25th being for a third time.

They compeared in publick and were rebuked July 2nd being for a 4th time. They compeared also in publick the 16th of July being for a 5th time were rebuked and appointed to wair on the Session and being called both compeared and the Session agreed to delay them for some time.

The Session appoint their officer to cite James Campbell as soon as he comes to the country befor the Session gainst August the 20th.

Cumnock August 20th 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoune, Andrew Hodge, Andrew Wilson, Elders.

James Campbell being called compeared not. The Session appoint their officer to cite him to compear before them gainst this day eight days.

Cumnock August 27th 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George Muir.

James Campbell being called compeared. The Session appointed him to compear in publick next Lord's Day and agreed after this compearance to lay his case befor the presbytery tho' his behaviour before the Session gave no cause for condescension.

Cumnock September 10th 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George Muir.

James Campbell compeared according to appointment the 3rd past in the publick place of repentance being for a 2nd time and was rebuked for his sin of fornication with Janet Sampson, Jean Aird & Elizabeth Williamson and was informed that his case was to be laid befor the presbytery that they might judge what was further to be done annent him.

Cumnock September ?? 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

This day the Minister reports that the presbytery to which James Campbell's case was refered sat at Straiton, but by reason of the badness of the weather and the great distance some of the members were at from their houses they delayed it till next presbytery and then appointed it to be judged.

Cumnock October 29th 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Robert Douglass.

This day George Muir was chosen ruleing Elder for the following half year.

There being a flagrant report of Janet Moodie her being with child in uncleanness, the Session order their officer to cite her gainst next Lord's Day.

This day William King applied to the Session to have a Testificate* allowed for himself, his mother and sisters which was appointed to be given him whenever he was to leave this place.

**Testificate – Certificate of good character/Testimonial, issued when people were moving between parishes.*

Cumnock November 5th 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

Janet Moodie being called compeared, owned guilt of uncleanness and gave up William Watson as father of her child. The Session cite him apud acta to next Lord's day and appoint the officer to cite William Watson THE MINISTERS MAN to the said Dyet.

The Minister reports that the Presbytery was so very infrequent that he delayed laying James Campbell's case before them to their next meeting which is to be the 13th December next.

Cumnock November 12th 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

Janet Moodie being called compeared, adhered to the accusation of William Watson who being called compeared, confessed guilt with Janet Moodie. They were rebuked for their sin & scandal & she was appointed to compear in public next Lord's day.

This day the Session appointed the following committee – Mr Steel, Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnstoun, Elders and the Clerk to meet on Thursday 21st current and examine the Treasurer's Accompts and to report.

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Cumnock November 26th 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Alexander Johnstoune and George Muir.

Janet Moodie compeared in publick last Lord's Day, was rebuked and continued and this day compeared for a 2nd time, was rebuked and appointed to wait on the Session where being called compeared was further rebuked and upon the evidence she gave of her repentance the Session appointed her to compear in publick next Lord's day and upon her suitable behaviour then to be absolved.

The committee appointed to revise James Houat the treasurer's accompts this day report that they examined the same and approved. Discharged him to October 29 and left in his hand of bad money sixty pounds Scots and of good money seventeen pound fourteen shilling Scots.

Cumnock December 10th 1738

Ante meridiem. Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnstoune, George Muir, Andrew Hodge, Elders, John Vallance, James Houat, Deacons.

This day William Watson desired to speak with the Session. Was called and desired to be allowed to compear in public this day to make profession of repentance for the sin of fornication committed by him with Janet Moodie which was allowed him.

Janet Moodie compeared in public the 3rd past for 3rd time, was rebuked and absolved.

Eodem Die post meridiem. Session mett as above after prayer.

With the case of James Campbell that is to be laid before the presbytry the Session appoint to be subpoenaed that since the day that he was absolved from the scandal of Ann Hair in May last he has not attended the ordinances*.

**ordinances – in this case, directions or sanction from an authority.*

This day William Watson compeared in public for a first time, was rebuked and continued.

Cumnock December 17th 1738

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Robert Douglass, George McKairtney & John Vallance.

The Minister reports from the presbytery that they appoint James Campbell to be cited before the first presbytry after he comes from Edinburgh.

This day William Watson compeared in public for 2nd time and was rebuked for his sin & scandal with Janet Moodie and was appointed to wait on the Session where upon the evidence he gave of his repentance they appointed him to compare in public this day fournight and upon his suitable behaviour then to be absolved.

Cumnock December 31st 1738

Session mett and constitute.

This day William Watson compeared in public for a 3rd time and was rebuked & absolved.

Cumnock February 4th 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Alexander Johnstoune, John templetoun, George McKairtney, George Muir & Alexander Vallance.

There being a flagrant report that Margaret Donald is with child in uncleanness the Session appoint their officer to cite her before them against Thursday next.

This day the Session appoint their Treasurer James Houat to grant receipt of one hundred merks Scots as a years annual rent of a bond of two thousand merks due by John Cochrane of Waterside to the Kirk Session of Old Cumnock upon his receiving the money.

Cumnock February 8th 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Vallance & Andrew Hodge, Elders & James Houat, Deacon.

Margaret Donald being called compeared denied her being with child or her having been guilty of uncleanness. She said that she would not give us satisfaction just now but was land bideing*. That sometimes she denyes and seems not so distinct the Session therefor appoint her to converse with some women and cite her to compear before them gainst Sabbath come eight days.

**land bideing – Staying at home/remaining on the land/not leaving.*

Cumnock February 10th 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Templetoun, George McKairtney, Andrew Wilson & Andrew Hodge.

Margaret Donald being called compeared not. She living near the Kirk, the Session sent their officer to see what was the cause of her not compearing, and he brought account that she was indisposed and could not come out. The Session appoint her to be cited gainst next Lord's Day.

Cumnock February 17th 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

Margaret Donald being called compeared, being asked if she was with child, or had been guilty of uncleanness with any person answered that she did not know herself that time would say all, and said that she would neither deny not confess. The Session agree to delay her for some time and cite her apud acta to compear befor them gainst this day three weeks.

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Cumnock March 4th 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George McKairtney.

This day the Session being informed that James Campbell is now come to the country appoint their officer to cite before the presbytery at Ayr on Wednesday first, being the seventh current according to the Presbytries appointment.

Cumnock March 10th 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnston, John Templetoun, Alexander Vallance, George Murdoch, Elders and James Houat, Deacon.

Margaret Donald being called compeared not, the Session appointed the Officer to go to her and cite her to compear before them the next Lord's Day and to inform her that in case she does not then compear the Session will proceed to inflict higher censure on her for contumacy.

Cumnock March 25th 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George McKairtney.

Compeared Margaret Donald and confessed herself with child in uncleanness and gave up John Donald as the father of her child. The Session cited her apud acta to compear before them against the next Lord's Day and appointed the Officer to cite John Donald to the said Dyet.

The Minister reports that James Campbell did not compear before the presbytery, but that he wrote a letter of excuse informing them that he was indisposed but would attend next presbytery which was sustained.

Cumnock April 1st 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Templetoun, George Muir and Andrew Wilson.

Margaret Donald being called compeared not, but John Donald now her husband being called compeared and said that his wife was not well, confessed guilt with the above Margaret Donald, was rebuked for his sin and appointed to compear in publick next Lord's Day to be rebuked further, and appointed the officer to cite Margaret Donald to compear in publick also with her husband to the said effect.

Cumnock April 15th 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Alexander Vallance, Andrew Hodge and George McKartney.

John and Margaret Donald compeared in publick last Lord's Day and were rebuked and appointed to compear in publick this day where they compeared for a second time and were further rebuked and appointed to wait on the Session, where being called they both compeared and upon the evidence they gave of their knowledge & repentance they appointed them both to compear in publick next Lord's Day and upon their suitable behaviour then to be absolved,

This day the Session appoint the following committee viz: Mr Steel, Minister, Robert Douglas, Clerk, Robert Douglas and Alexander Johnstoun Elders to meet on Saturday and examine John Houat the Treasurer's accopts and to report.

Cumnock May 5th 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

The committee appointed to examine James Houat the Treasurer's accompts met according to appointment, examined the same and discharged him of intromissions to April 15th and found in his hands forty seven pound four shilling and ten pennies Scots of good money and seventeen pound seven shillings of bad.

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April 22nd

John Donald and Margaret Donald compeared in publick for a third time, were rebuked and absolved.

April 28th

James Campbell, brother to the Laird of Horsecleugh compeared in publick for a third time and was informed that he was not to be absolved till the Session should observe his future behaviour, having compeared before the presbytery according to his promise ad been appointed by them to compear in publick this day.

Cumnock August 5th 1739

Session mett after prayer ante meridiem.

This day the Session agreed to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in this place on Sabbath August 26th and appointed the same to be intimated to the Congregation and agreed to meet for prayer concerning the Communion Roll on Friday 17th instant.

Cumnock August 17th 1739

Members all present.

After prayer by several of the members the Session agreed on their roll which is contained in a separate piece of papper.

Cumnock September 2nd 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

There being a flagrant report that Mary Shirringlaw, spouse to William Hamiltoun in Broadmeadow was found among some corn the Thursday befor the Sacrament in the act of adultery with William Cumming sometime taylor in this place and now a recruit in the army & that by William Halbert, Hugh Baird and George Muir. The session appoint their officer to cite her gainst next Lord's Day.

Cumnock September 9th 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Templetoun and George McKartney.

Mary Shirringlaw compeared not. The Session appoint their officer to cite her gainst Sabbath the 30th current pro secundo.

Cumnock September 30th 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George McKartney & Andrew Hodge.

Mary Shirringlaw being called compeared denyed guilt with William Cumming. The Session cite her apud acta to next Lord's Day.

Cumnock October 11th 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Templetoun and Andrew Hodge.

Mary Shirringlaw being called compeared not. She sent for excuse that she was indisposed which was sutained. The Session order their officer to cite her gainst this day fourtnight.

Cumnock October 14th 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George Muir.

There being a flagrant report that Jean Fisher is with child in uncleanness the Session appoint their officer to cite her gainst next Lord's Day.

Cumnock October 21st 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Templetoun and Andrew Hodge.

Mary Shirringlaw being called compeared, continued to deny guilt with William Cumming. The Session delay her til they advise the presbytery annent her case.

Jean Fisher being called compeared acknowledged her being with child in uncleanness and gave up John Fergusson missinger as the father of her child. The Session delay her till they have the advice of

the Presbytery he having conveyed her after she was ordered to be cited before the Session upon their information of her being with child before a Justice of the Peace and there having given his oath that he was free of her.

This day the Session appointed Alexander Vallance ruling Elder for the following half year.

Appointed the following committee Mr Robert Douglass, Clerk, Mr Robert Douglass & Alexander Johnstoun Elders to meet on Friday the 27th current and examine James Houat the Treasurer's accmpts and to report.

Cumnock October 28th 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George McKartney.

The Committee reports that they examined the Treasurer's accmpts, found them just, discharged him to October 26th and left in his hands of good and bad money 90£ 18sh 11d Scots money.

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Cumnock November 5th 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Templetoun and Alexander Vallance.

The Minister reports from the presbytery that they appoint the Session to proceed annent John Fergusson without regarding what may have been done anent him in a civil court till he produce the extract of his oath and in that case to lay it before the Presbytery.

And as to Mary Shirringlaw that the witnesses are to be examined annent her notwithstanding there not being access to cite Cumming, he being gone away somewhere to be a sojer. The Sesssion therefore order their officer to cite Mary Shirringlaw & the witnesses gainst next lord's Day and order the officer to cite John Fergusson & Jean Fisher where she can be found to the said Dyet.

Cumnock November 11th 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George McKartney.

Jean Fisher not having been found out that she might be cited is appointed to be cited to next Lord's Day.

John Fergusson being called compeared, denied guilt with Jean Fisher was cited to the said Dyet that they might be confronted.

Mary Shirringlaw being called compeared, continued to deny guilt with William Cumming.

William Halbert called, compeared, aged about twenty four, unmarried being solemnly sworn, purged of malice & partial counsel, nothing objected against him depones that on the Thursday after our last Communion ??Tavt being in August last that Hugh Baird came into a room where George

Muir and the Deponent were sitting together and said he had seen William Cumming and Mary Shirringlaw go up the way together drunk and that he doubted not but they were on some bad design upon which they all three followed together and saw him endeavouring to lay her down a little up the way that she then refused but that a piece above near the Town head he saw them both upon the ground, but befor he came so near as to know what they were doing. The man was risen by George Hair's coming to them. Depones that she going a little piece out of the town off the Highway to her home. William Cumming followed and laid her down among the corn and wrestled above her, she crying out "what will you do ill to me, and I a Highland man's wife & you a Highland man, upon which Hugh Baird took him of(f) her and beat him which the deponent saw that she went away homeward and that they left him lying there and that the Deponent look't upon them both as drunk from their being able neither to speak nor walk and declared that this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Signed William Halbert, John Steel Moderator.

The said Mary owns that she drank both ale & drams in four different houses befor they left the town in company with him.

Hugh Baird being called compeared, aged about twenty four years, unmarried, solemnly sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel and nothing objected against him depones that on the foresaid day he with William Halbert and George hair following William Cumming & Mary Shirringlaw up the way found them near the Town head lying together, him above her as far as he could discern it being dark and saw his breeches down and that George Hair raised him off her, after that a little piece out of the town he came up and saw him lying above her in (an) obscene manner and that when he came forward she began (*page damaged*) if she would have made some resistance that he took him (by) the neck and pulled him of her, and gave him two or three **?darts***. William Halbert and Gerge Muir being close by them, depones that he was drunk but cannot say that she was drunk. Declares that this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Signed Heugh Beard. John Steel, Moderator.

The Session delay this affair till they hear of George Hair coming to the Country.

This Day Mr Archibald Wallace was chosen and admitted Session Clerk in the usual form.

**dart – the word is unclear, but looks to me like "darts". According to the Dictionary of old Scots, "to dart" means "to raise the foot and set it down hard again" or "to stamp", which would make sense here.*

Cumnock 18th November 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Robert Douglass, George Murdoch, Alexander Vallance, Andrew Wilson, George Muir, Alexander Johnstoun and James Houat.

The above Jean Fisher having been cited was called and compeared and adhered to her accusation.

John Fergusson being called compeared and adhered to his denyall. They are both cited peremptorily to compear next Lord's Day and John Halbert in Langhouse with his wife Jean Lorimer with Robert Souter younger and John Slowan who are said to have seen them together that day she alledges they were guilty and Jeane Slowan in Burnswell Trees is to be cited to the same Dyet to the effect of witnessing thereanent.

Cumnock 25th November 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnstoun, Andrew Hodge, John Templetoun and John Vallance.

The witnesses having all been cited were called and none compeared but John Slowan, married aged fifty seven who was solemnly sworn purged of malice and partial counsel nothing objected against him depones that (in) April last when John Fergusson was drinking at John Halbert's house in Langhouse in company with the said John Halbert, Robert Souter younger in this Town and himself he saw Jean Fisher come in but knows not whether she was sent for or not, and that without sitting down she took a drink and went away again, that she got the drink out of Robert Souters hand and that he saw no manner of familiarity betwixt John Fergusson and her. That this is truth as she shall answer to God. Subcribed thus: John Sloan. John Steel Moderator.

The Session appoints the rest of the witnesses in this affair to be cited against Thursday next after sermon.

The Session being informed that George Hair is come to the Country appoint him likewise to be cited to compear before them on Thursday next after sermon and Mary Shirringlaw to be cited to the said Dyet.

Cumnock 29th November 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, James Howat, Robert Douglass, Alexander Vallance, John Vallance and Robert Douglass.

Mary Shirringlaw was called and compeared and persisted in her deniall.

George Hair having been called compeared aged about twenty four unmarried, no objection made, solemnly sworn, purged of malice and partiall counsel depones that the time lybelled after it was dark at night he saw William Cummin rise off from above Mary Sherringlaw and put up his breeches near the Town head opposite Hugh Black's door and saw them again a little after, making a wrestling on the ground together, a little bit out of the town but was not so near as to observe any thing more particularly and that both William Halbert and Hugh Baird were along with him and declares he cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for him. Subscribed Archibald Wallace, John Steel, Moderator.

Robert Souter younger in Cumnock being called compeared, aged about twenty three unmarried no objection made, solemnly sworn purged of malice and partial counsel depones that at the time lybelled he did see Jean Fisher come in at John Halbert's door where she got a cup full of ale or two without sitting down and that he did not see John Fergusson either kiss her or touch her or use any other familiarity with her and that this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Subscribed Robert Souter. John Steel, Moderator.

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Jean Slowan being called compeared no objection made, aged about twenty one, unmarried solemnly sworn purged of malice and partial counsel depones that she never saw John Fergusson and Jean Fisher together as far as she can remember and that this is the truth as she shall answer to

God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Signed Archibald Wallace.
John Steel, Moderator.

John Herbert being called compeared aged about fifty years, no objection made, solemnly sworn purged of malice and partial counsel depones that at the time lybelled he called Jean Fisher in, having something to do with her, that she got a drink without sitting down and that John Fergusson neither spoke to her or used any familiarity whatever and that this is the truth as he shall answer to God.. Subscribed John Harbert.

Cumnock 23rd December 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, George Muir, George Murdoch, John Vallance and James Howat.

The minister reports from the Presbytery that they finding no appearance of presumption against John Fergusson order him to be assolzed* and that Mary Shirringlaw is to be cited to next Presbytery.

**assolzed – assoilized = to be absolved/forgiven*

There being a flagrant report that Janet Caldow in this town is with child in uncleanness and that her sister Martha Caldow accuses another man than she did formerly, the Session appoints them both to be cited against this day 8 days.

Cumnock 30th December November 1739

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, John Vallance and James Howat.

Janet Caldow being called compeared and confessed she was with child in uncleanness and gave up John Fergusson in Cumnock as the father of her child.

Martha Caldow being called compeared not. She is appointed to be cited pro 2ndo to Thursday next.

Cumnock 3rd January 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, George Muir, John Templetoun and James Howat.

Martha Caldow compeared and owned she was guilty of uncleanness with Thomas McWhirtor while she was in the parish of Auchinleck tho' she had expressly denied it before and given her child to another.

Cumnock 6th January 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Templetoun and George McKartney.

Janet Caldow being called compeared and adhered to her accusation and John Fergusson being called compeared not but sent a letter acquainting the Session of his not being able to come by reason of a hurt and he is ordered to be cited against this day eight days.

Cumnock January 18th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, Andrew Hodge, Alexander Vallance, and James Howat.

Janet Caldow being called compeared and adhered to her accusation.

John Fergusson being called compeared and denied guilt with the said Janet Caldow upon which Janet Caldow said she would produce witnesses who could testify their suspect conversation but seemed to be in some confusion about naming them. The Session therefor appoint this day eight days to condescend upon particular witnesses.

The Session order their officer to cite Jean Fisher and Mary Sherringlaw to the Presbytery against their next meeting on the twenty third instant, Mary Sherringlaw's scandal being adultery and Jean Fisher having been guilty both of adultery and fornication before in the new paroch.*

**There is nothing referring to these cases in Ayr Presbytery minutes for 23/01/1740, although the Rev Steel was present.*

Cumnock January 20th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, Alexander Vallance, George Muir, George Murdoch John Vallance.

Janet Caldow being called compeared and condescended on no other witnesses than what she had named last Lord's Day who were Robert Gall and Margaret Thomson, his wife, and Jean Kissock who is also thought to know something of that affair who are all appointed to be cited to compear before the Session on Sunday next.

Cumnock January 28th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George Muir and Andrew Hodge.

Janet Caldow and John Fergusson having been called compeared not, they having been cited apud acta the Session proceeded to call the witnesses – none of whom compeared but Jean Kissock who was delayed until this day fourthnight. The Minister being to be absent this day eight days to which Dyet the other two witnesses are likewise to be cited.

Cumnock February 10th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnstoun, Andrew Hodge, George Muir and James Howat.

John Fergusson and Janet Caldow being called compeared not and are appointed to be cited pro tertio to this day eight days.

Robert Gall and Jean Kissock being called compeared and are cited apud acta to said Dyet for third time and Margaret Thomson is also ordered to be cited for the third time.

Cumnock February 17th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, Alexander Vallance, George Murdoch and James Howat.

Janet Caldow being called compeared and adhered to her accusation.

John Fergusson being called compeared and persisted in his denial.

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Robert Gall and his wife Margaret Thomson being called as witnesses compeared no objection made. The said Robert, aged about thirty five solemnly sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel depones that he knows nothing at all of any unlawful conversation betwixt John Fergusson and Janet Caldow but that he had heard the door sometimes opened after has first sleep but knows not by whom and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Signed Robert Gall. John Steel, Moderator.

Margaret Thomson being called compeared aged above thirty no objection made solemnly sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel depones that she saw John Fergusson sometimes in the closs but knows not whom he was seeking and never saw anything indecent in their conversation and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Signed Archibald Wallace. John Steel, Moderator.

Cumnock April 6th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, Alexander Vallance, George Murdoch.

The minsister reports from the Presbyter that he having consulted them about John Fergusson's case, they order the Oath of Purgation to be read to him and a copy thereof left in his hands and the Session appoint him to be cited before them against this day fourthnight for that effect.

And reports that Mary Shirringlaw is ordered to enter on a course of repentance as ane adultress, the Session appoint her to be cited before them against this day fourthnight.

Reports Likewise that Jean Fisher did not attend the Presbytery. The Session therefor order their officer to cite her before them against this day fourthnight in order to cite her peremptorily to the next Presbytery.

Cumnock April 20th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

The Kirk Officer informs that he was at due pains to find out Jean Fisher in order to cite her to compear before the Session but could not find her, she having removed from the place where she usually stayed.

Mary Sherringlaw being called compeared and was appoint to appear in sackcloath next lord's Day at the usual place in order to be rebuked and give satisfaction for the sin of Adultery.

John Fergusson not being at home is delayed to next Lord's Day.

Cumnock April 27th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, Robert Douglass, George Murdoch, John Vallance and James Howat.

John Fergusson was called and compeared not and is ordered to be cited against this day eight days.

Mary Sherringham not having appeared in sackcloth this day according to appointment, the minister is to report the same to presbytery on Wednesday next.

Jean Fisher not having been found, the officer is ordered to search for her and cite her against this day eight days.

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Cumnock May 4th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

John Fergusson being called compeared not and is appointed to be cited against this day three weeks.

The Minister reports from the Presbytery that they order Mary Sherringlaw to be cited before them against the last Wednesday of this current moneth in order to intent a process against her to bring her under the greater Excommunication and the session appoint her to be cited before them against this day three weeks in order to cite her peremptorily before the Presbytery.

Jean Fisher being called compeared and is summoned to compear before the Presbytery on the Last Wednesday of May instant*.

**There is no record of an appearance in Ayr Prebytery records.*

Cumnock May 25th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templetoun, George Murdoch, Robert Douglass.

John Fergusson having been cited was called but compeared not and is to be cited against next Lord's Day pro secundo.

Mary Sherringlaw having been cited was called and not compearin is appointed to be cited by the Officer to compear before the Presbytery on Wednesday next being the twenty eight day of May instant.

Cumnock June 8th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, Andrew Wilson, George Murdoch, Robert Douglass, George Muir & John Vallance.

The Minister reportd from the Presbytery that they order Mary Sherringlaw to be cited before them against their next meeting to be on the twenty fifth day of June instant.

John Fergusson is ordered to be cited against this day eight days pro secundo. The session not having met las Lord's day on account of the Clerk's absence who had the minutes.

Cumnock June 15th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, Robert Douglass, Alexander Vallance, John Vallance, Andrew Wilson, George Murdoch, John Templetoun and James Howat.

John Fergusson being called compeared and persisted in his denial and had a copy of the oath of Purgation read over to him and left in his hand.

Cumnock June 29th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Alexander Vallance.

Margaret Hanna, spouse to Alexander Chrichtoun in this town offers a complaint against Bessy Thomson, spouse to John Good there, that the said Bessy had abused her by slander, particularly by calling her before many witnesses "ane adulterous whore" and saying that by God and her salvation she would prove it and offers witnesses Adam Lees, William Mitchell, John Templetoun, John McRobert, Margaret Goldman and Isabel Moor, all in Cumnock.

Who are all cited to compear before the Session against this day eight days and Bessy Thomson is appointed to be cited to the same Dyet.

Cumnock July 5th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Andrew Wilson, George Murdoch and James Howat.

The Minister reports from the Presbytery that they order Mary Sherringlaw to be cited before them pro secundo against the 23rd day of July instant.

Compeared Mary Hanna and persisted in her complaint.

Bessy Thomson being called compeared acknowledged she slandered Margaret Hanna by calling her ane adulterous whore but denies she swore she would prove it.

Margaret Hanna for proving that Bessy Thomson swore she would prove what she said condescends on the witnesses named last Lord's Day.

Compeared Isabel More, a widow, aged about sixty, no objection but that she purge herself. John McRobert married, aged about sixty five no objection made, both solemnly sworn, both purged of malice and partial counsel depone viz: She said, Isabel More, that she heard Bessy Thomson call Margaret Hanna ane adulterous whore and heard her likewise swear by God and her salvation that she would prove it and that this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Signed Isabel Thomson. John Steel, Moderator.

The said John McRobert depones that he heard Bessy Thomson call Margaret Hanna ane adulterous whore but did not hear her swear she would prove it and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Declares he cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for him, Subscribed Archibald Wallace. John Steel Moderator.

Compeared William Mitchell unmarried, aged above thirty, no objection made, solemnly sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel depones that as to her calling Margaret Hanna ane adulterous whore, that he heard it but cannot be positive whether she would prove it or not and that this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Signed William Mitchell.

Adam Lees having been cited was called compeared, married aged about thirty three , no objection made, solemnly sworn purged of malice and partial counsel depones that he heard Bessy Thomason call Margaret Hann ane adulterous whore but did not hear her say or swear she could prove it and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Subscr. Adam Lees. John Steel, Moderator.

John Templeton having been cited was called and compeared, married, aged above sixty no objection, solemnly sworn purged of malice and partial counsel depones that he heard nothing at all of it not having been within hearing and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Signed John Templeton, John Steel, Minister.

The Officer is appointed to cite Margaret Goldman to compear before the Session against this day eight days.

Cumnock July 13th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnstoun, George Murdoch, George Muir and John Templeton.

Margaret Goldman being called compeared, unmarried aged upwards of thirty, no objection made purged of

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malice and partial counsel, solemnly sworn depones that she heard Bessy Thomson call Margaret Hanna ane adulterous whore and further that she heard her swear by God and her salvation she would prove the same and that this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Archibald Wallace, John Steel, Moderator.

Bessy Thomson called in and sessionally rebuked on the proof against her and the session delayed passing sentence on her till they should consult the Presbytery.

Cumnock July 20th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Templeton.

The members of the Session having been talking before anent administrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper are now come to a resolution to celebrate the same against this day fourthnight.

Cumnock July 20th 1740

Sederunt the Minister and hail Elders and after severals had prayed concerted the Commununion Rolls as follows (*blank space*) and which is also in relentis in a pappere* apart.

**paper*

Cumnock August 10th 1740

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, George Murdoch, George Muir, Andrew Wilson, Alexander Vallance & James Howat.

The Minister reports from the Presbytery that they order Mary Sherringlaw to appear before the Congregation and give satisfaction as an adultress which if she refuses to bring her under the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication. The Officer is ordered to cite her before the Session against this day eight days that the same may be intimate to her.

The Session being informed that John Cochran of Watersyde and his brother Mr James as his Caur* will no longer keep six hundred merks belonging to the Poor of this paroch for which the Session had their bill. Do therefore appoint James Howat Kirk Treasurer to receive the same with bygone annual rent and to deliver up their bill and discharge likewise if they require.

Caur = Cautioner – a guarantor or surety.

Cumnock August 17th 1740

Session mett after prayers.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnston, Robert Douglass, Alexander Vallance, John Templeton, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch.

Mary Shirringlaw being called compeared and refused to appear before the congregation as an adultress in terms of the Prebyteries appointment and withal denied she was guilty notwithstanding the fullness of the proof, upon which the Session according to the said act of Presbytery put her under the sentence of the lesser Excommunication and intimate the same to her and are to intimate to the Congregation next Lord's Day and that it was in order to procedure towards the Greater whereof account is to be laid before the Presbytery at their next meeting.

Cumnock August 24th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnston, Andrew Wilson, Andrew Hodge & John Vallance.

Mary Shirringlaw being brought under the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication last lord's Day was this

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day intimate according to the Presbyteries order.

It being proposed that Wallacetoun Elder and Younger offer to give their bonds for six hundred Merks of the Poor's money. The Session unanimously agreed to give it them on their said bonds either as co-principals or the one principal and the other as cautioner.

Cumnock Sept 7th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Vallance.

The Minister reports from the Presbytery that the reason that they had passed no sentence against Bessy Thomson was the Session Clerk's not having subscribed* the Extract of that Process sent in to the Presbytery.

**signed*

Janet Samson applying to the Session to be absolved. They order their Clerk and Alexander Johnstoun to get her bill payable to the Treasurer for the Penalty.

There being a brute* that Jean Nichol in this town is with child, the Officer is ordered to cite her against next Lord's Day.

**Brute – a rumour or gossip*

Cumnock September 14th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Alexander Vallance and George Muir.

Jean Nichol being called compeared and owned she was with child to George Hair, now in the army and was cited to compear before the Session against this day eight days,

Cumnock September 21st 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnstoun, Andrew Hodge, Andrew Wilson, George Murdoch, & James Howat.

The Session finding no presumptions of the truth of Jean Nichol's accusation order it to be laid before the Presbytery for advice.

Cumnock November 9th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, Robert Douglass, George Murdoch and James Howat.

The Minister reports from the Presbytery as to Bessy Thomsons affair, if she shews herself truly penitent she is to be passed with a Sessional rebuke and if she proves contumacious is to be reprov'd before the Congregation upon which the Session order their officer to +cite her before them against this day eight days.

Cumnock November 23rd 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, Robert Douglass, George Murdoch and James Howat.

Bessy Thomson being called compeared not and is ordered to be cited against this day eight days.

There being a flagrant report that Marion McCowan in this town entertains bad company and that on Thursday was eight days she kept some lewd women in her house drinking with men of bad characters through the day and lodged them at night. The session appoint her to be cited before them against this day eight days.

Cumnock November 9th 1740

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Templetoun and Alexander Vallance.

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Bessy Thomson being called compeared and shewed a persistent sense of her fault in slandering Margaret Hanna. Declared she had acknowledged the same to Margaret herself upon which she was sessionally rebuked, exhorted to repentance and dismissed.

Marion McCown being called compeared and on the report of her entertaining people of bad repute in her house was reprovved and told that the Session would use their influence with the civil magistrate to take due course with her.

Cumnock 22nd February 1744

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Hodge.

The Session appoint Mr John Steel, Minister, and James Howat, Treasurer to borrow one hundred merks from Isobel More for the present necessity of the poor and to grant their bill for the same in the name of the Session on behoof of the poor.

Cumnock 20th February 1744 *(date is wrong, possibly 28th)*

The Minister and Treasurer borrowed this day from John Vallance the sum of one hundred merks, it being thought more convenient to borrow it from him than Isabel More, which sum is left in the Treasurer's hands.

Cumnock May 31st 1741

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, John Templetoun, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch, Alexander Johnstoun, George Muir, James Howard and John Vallance.

This day a scroll of discharge being read and approven of by the Session to Mr James Currie, merchant, Late Provost of Dumfries for ane hundred merks left by James Muirhead, late Merchant there to the poor of this paroch and wherewith his brother and heir William Muirhead, merchant in Carlisle was burdened who legally constituted the said James Currie his assignee with the burden of the said hundred merks which the said provost James Currie is now to pay to the Session of the paroch of Old Cumnock in behalf of the poor thereof. The said discharge is appointed in a constitute Session to be signed in their name by Mr John Steel, Minister, James Howat, Kirk Treasurer and Archibald Wallace, Session Clerk.

Cumnock June 21st 1741

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnstoun and James Howat.

As to Jean Nichol the Minister reports that in the circumstances the Presbytery advise she be admitted to profess repentance in order to absolution if satisfying that she may present her own child.

James Howat Treasurer reports he has received the hundred merks left in legacy to the poor of this paroch by James Muirhead, except two shillings detained at Dumfries for the discharge and pains, and eighteen pence to one for bringing it here, and is to be lent out in good security the first opportunity.

Jean Nichol is appointed to appear before the Congregation against this day fourthnight.

There being a flagrant report that Anna Hair is with child the Session appoint her to be cited before the against this day fourthnight.

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Cumnock July 5th 1741

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

Anna Hair having been summoned was called and compeared owned she was with child in uncleanness to Quarter Master Lang and was summoned apud acta to compear before the Session against this day fourthnight.

Cumnock July 19th 1741

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

Anna Hair being called compeared and persisted in her accusation and was told her case was to be laid before the Presbytery and that after the Session having the Presbyteries advice she should be informed of the same by them.

Cumnock July 26th 1741

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except James Howat.

Jean Nichol having appeared this day and the two Lord's days preceding in order to profess repentance for the sin of fornication with George Hair conform to her own confession was absolved as ordered last Lord's day.

The Minister reports from the Presbytery that he having consulted them about William Maxwell who had married two wives they order him to be cited before them against their next meeting, and reports anent Janet Aird who was guilty of beating her mother that they order the Session to appoint her to appear before the Congregation whenever they see convenient in order to lay her under the sentence of the lesser Excommunication and in case she do not show signs of penitence to proceed against her by the greater Excommunication.

(There is no mention of any of this in the Ayr Presbytery records from April to Sept 1741)

The Session having determined to dispense the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in this place this day fourthnight have appointed to meet for prayer and concerting the Communion Roll on Wednesday next.

Cumnock July 29th 1741

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

After prayer by several of the members the Communion Roll was concerted and approven of which is kept in relentis in a separate papper.

Cumnock Sept 20th 1741

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Alexander Johnstoun.

There being a flagrant report that Janet Ingram in Cumnock is with child in uncleanness, the Session appoint her to be cited before them against Sunday come eight days.

Cumnock October 3rd 1741

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglas, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch, George Muir and James Howat.

Janet Ingram being called compeared and owned she was with child in uncleanness to Edward Crichtoun, mason in Cumnock who is appointed to be cited to compear before the against this day eight days.

Cumnock 10th October 1741

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George Muir.

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Margaret Weir now in Muirkirk paroch came voluntarily before this Session and owned herself with child in uncleanness and accused as the father of it William Howatson, son to Jean Harbert in Durmulloch in this paroch, alledging he was guilty with her in August last. She is not sure if it was towards the end of it when she was serving in his mother's house. The Session dismissed her till they should advertise her again and resolve to use what methods they can to get him conveyed before them who is now dwelling in Wanlochhead.

Edward Crichton being called compeared and owned he was guilty of fornication with Janet Ingram was Sessionally rebuked and for come considerations the session delay appointing them to appear for some time.

The Session appoint John Templetoun in Pennyfardeoch Miln to be their Elder to the Presbytery.

William Maxwell in Horsecleugh appointed to be cited to the next Presbytery which is to be the second week of November.

Cumnock November 8th 1741

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George Muir and Andrew Hodge.

The Session being informed that Mr Charles Cochran of Ochiltree is to pay the two thousand merks owing to the poor of the paroch of Old Cumnock by John Cochran of Waterside and Mr James Cochran, Advocat as Cautioner and that the said Mr Charles offers for payment of the said two thousand merks assignation to a bond of the sum of two thousand merks owing to him by William Muir of Burntwood they therefore order the minister and James Howat, present Kirk Treasurer to receive the said assignation with the bygone annual rents except two years @rent owing by Burntwood which is likewise to be assigned with the bond granted by the same John Cochran of Waterside and Mr James Cochran his brother to the said Session of Cumnock.

Cumnock November 15th 1741

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, Robert Douglass, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch and James Howat.

The Session appoint Edward Crichton and Janet Ingram to compear before them next Lord's Day in order to appoint them to appear before the Congregation the Lord's Day next after.

Cumnock 22nd Nov 1741

Session mett after prayer ante meridiem.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, George Muir, and James Howat.

Edward Crichton and Janet Ingram, at their own desire were allowed to appear for the first time in publick this day before the Congregation to make profession of repentance for the sin of fornication before marriage.

Edward Crichton and Janet Ingram were absolved Decem 7th Day according to last Lord's Days appointment.

Cumnock January 17th 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, Robert Douglass and James Howat.

The Minister and Treasurer report that they received Mr Charles Cochran of Culross his assignation to William Muir of Burntwood's bond of two thousand merks an bygone annual rent upon theirsinging and

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Delivering an assignation to a bond for the like sum, the Kirk session had from John Cochran of Watersyde in favours of the poor of this place and of the aforementioned rent whereof they have received payment except what is unpaid by Burntwood of the Above rent of his bond which is assigned with the bond as above all according to the Session's appointment at a former Dyet and the pappers are lodged in the hands of James Howat, Kirk Treasurer.

Cumnock January 31st 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Andrew Wilson, Andrew Hodge, John Vallance and James Howat.

The Minister and Treasurer report that on the twentieth and sixth instant they received from William Muir of Burntwood ane hundred merks as ane years annual rent of the two thousand merks now owning by him to the poor of this paroch which is put into James Howat Kirk Treasurer his custody for which the Session order James Howat to grant receipt and to send ane extract of this act empowering him to receive and discharge the same to Burntwood.

The Session appoint James Howat to pay John Vallance the hundred merks owing to him and to take up the Bill.

As to the abovenamed William Maxwell the Minister according to appointment of the Presbytery rebuked him publicly and reported to the Presbytery who marked the same in their minutes.

Cumnock February 21st 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Hodge.

On a report that Elizabeth Murdoch, servant to the Laird of Horsecleugh is with child in uncleanness she is ordered to be cited to the Session against Thursday next.

Cumnock 25th February 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnstoun & James Howat.

Elizabeth Murdoch having been called compeared and was earnestly dealt with to confess who was the father of her child said that that tho' she were going to die she could aught no other but the Laird of Horsecleugh and acknowledges she was married to Robert Wallace and produced her marriage lines and two letters from her husband that were directed to a third person, that her husband's friend who might not know anything about the marriage. She declares further that the child was begot at Glaisnock while she was in the said Mr John Campbell's service.

Cumnock 28th February 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Robert Douglass.

The Treasurer reports he paid John Vallance the 100 merks and took up the bill.

It is agreed in Session that the Minister should write to Horsecleugh to be informed whither he inclined to attend the Session next Lord's Day without a positive citation and if he does not in his answer to the Minister signify his being willing to attend that Dyet the Session appoint their officer to cite him to the same.

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Cumnock 1st March 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minster, Alexander Johnstone George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge and James Howat.

Elizabeth Murdoch being called compeared and persisted in her accusation, alleges as presumption against Mr Campbell his having forced her into his service and his sister Mrs Nannie having sometime or other having reproved him for using her **unwisely** when she went up to a garret to bring down some meal and that on the night betwixt the last of May and first of June he called her into his room bolted the door and kept her from eleven to seven in the morning.

Compeared John Campbell and denies guilt with the said Elizabeth Murdoch. The Session order this affair to be laid before the Presbyterie.

John Patrick in Stay by the Gate and Agnes Rankine in Cumnock having run off together and been sometime about Glasgow give out now that they are married persons and cohabite as such the Session therefore order them both to be cited before them against this day eight days.

Cumnock March 14th 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Robert Douglass and John Vallance.

John Patrick and Agnes Rankine being called they both compeared. (*Nothing further written.*)

(It appears that there is a page missing, as some of the next entries refer to "abovementioned" people who have not previously been mentioned.)

Cumnock 18th April 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnstone, John Templetoun, George Muir, Andre Hodge and James Howat.

Compeard Robert Neilson and confessed guilt with the said Elizabeth Burnet. The session appoint him to appear in the publick place for the first time agains next Lord's Day if it can answer with his convenience, he not having his time in his own hand.

The Minister reports from the presbytery that annent John Patricks affair & Agnes Rankine since the Session saw a Testificate of this marriage and since they adhered to the same the Presbytery said the Session could do no more in that affair.

As to Horsecleughs affair the Presbytery did not rely so much on the presumption of his having forced Elizabeth Murdoch into his service as on his having known her to be a woman of bad character and after having been advised and dealt with not to take her into service yet still continued her in his house and they recommend to the session to enquire more particularly about what the alleged Mrs Nannie knows in the affair.

William Skirring applying to the Session to have the scandal removed that he has lyn so long under was dealt with to confess if he was guilty of what he was accused of which was his having connived in stealing of some meat out of the

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Sandbed Miln, confesses that in his drunkenness he went along with Andrew Hamiltoun and stood near the Sandbed Miln as Hamiltoun desired him but saw him not come out and knows not whither he stole any thing or not.* Professed serious repentance for the above sin of drunkenness and resolves to walk more cautiously for the future, was sessionally rebuked for his unguarded carriage and the same appointed to be intimated to the Congregation next Lord's Day.

**William Skirring was reported to the Cumnock Session for drunkenness in 1727. This matter has not appeared in Cumnock Sessions prior to this. Sandbed Miln appears to be near Kilmarnock/Fenwick, so possibly he had been censured there previously.*

Elizabeth Campbell, daughter to James Campbell in Cumnock compeared this day before the Session and confessed she was with child on fornication to John Fergusson messenger in Cumnock who is appointed to be cited against this day eight days and she to attend.

Cumnock 25th Aprile 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Hodge & Andrew Wilson.

John Fergusson compeared not but sent a letter to one of the members of the Session saying that he was not in capacity to attend that day but would God Willing attend next Lord's Day without any citation.

This day the session appointed George Murdoch to be their Elder to the Presbytery.

Intimation of William Skirring being rebuked was made as ordered.

Cumnock 2nd May 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except John Vallance.

John Fergusson being called compeared and confessed guilt with Elizabeth Campbell, declared he had married her on the 23rd day of Aprile last, produced a certificat of the same subscribed by one John Smith and two witnesses and both of them declared they were willing to adhere tho their marriage and are ordered to appear in the place of publick repentance against next Lord's Day.

Cumnock 9th May 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Minister, Alexander Johnstone, Robert Douglass, John Templeton.

Elizabeth Burnet being present is appointed to appear in publick this day for the first time.

Cumnock 16th May 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, John Vallance, James Howat.

Elizabeth Campbell having appeared in publick this day and last Lord's day and was tried as to her evidences of repentance was ordered to continue her appearances next Lord's Day in order to absolution.

Cumnock 30th May 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, George Murdoch, Alexander Johnstone & James Howat.

The Session appoint Tobert Douglass, Alexander Johnstone and the Session Clerk to revise the Treasurer's accounts and report against this day eight days.

Cumnock 6th June 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Hodge and Alexander Johnstone.

Robert Douglass and the Session Clerk report that they with Alexander Johnstone revised the Treasurer's accompts and found them just. Left in his hand £52 2s 7pence Scots whereof £39 1s 7pence bad money and £13 1 s good.

Elizabeth Burnet appeared this day for the second time and having attended the Session and giving satisfactory answers to questions proposed to her was ordered to appear next Lord's Day in order to be absolved.

There being a flagrant report that Annabella Wilson in this town is with child in uncleanness the Session order their officer to cite her before them against this day eight days.

Cumnock 13th June 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, John Templeton, Robert Douglass, Andrew Hodge and John Vallance.

Annabella Wilson being called compeared and owned she was with child in uncleanness to John Sutherland, Merchant in this town who is to be cited to the Session against this day eight days and Annabella Wilson to attend.

Cumnock June 20th 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Hodge.

John Fergusson having this day appeared for the fifth time professing repentance for a relapse into fornication with Elizabeth Campbell before his marriage. Having waited on the Session he was told he could not be absolved till he satisfied the presbytery annent the Caldow affair.*

**He had been accused of fathering a child to Janet Caldow in December 1739, and apparently absolved by the Presbytery.*

John Sutherland being called compeared and owned he was guilty of fornication with Annabella Wilson, which id to him a relapse. They are both ordered to appear in in order to get the scandal removed as soon as they can condescend.

Cumnock July 4th 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Wilson and George Muir.

Annabella Wilson having appeared publicly for the second time this day attended the Session and gave satisfying answers to questions propos'd to her, profess'd her sorrow for her sin and was ordered to appear next Lord's Day in order to be absolved.

Cumnock July 11th 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

Mr Neilson having appeared publicly this day for a 2nd time and having waited on the Session and professed his sorrow for his sin is ordered to appear this day fourtnight in order to be absolved.

Annabella Wilson was this day absolved having appeared publicly for the third time.

Cumnock July 2th 1742

Ante Meridiem.

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Johnstone, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch, Andrew Wilson, George Muir and James Howat.

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The Session have resolved to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper here on this day month which is to be intimate to the Congregation from the pulpit this day.

Mr Neilson was absolved this day as appointed.

Cumnock 13th August 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

After prayer by several members the Session concerted their Communion Roll which was approven of and kept in relentis on a separate piece of paper.

Cumnock 29th August 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

The Presbytery having ordered Mr Campbell of Skirrington to compear before them at their next meeting on the first day of September next, the Session therefore order him to be summon'd to that Dyet of the Presbytery & Elizabeth Murdoch likewise to be summoned.

This day John Templeton in Pennyfadzeoch Miln gave into James Howat, Treasurer, his hand assignation to two bills drawn by the deceased Heugh McCowan in Pennyfadzeoch upon and accepted by William Craig in Waterside of Cumnock of the principal sum of £25 Scots of which two Bills Jean McCowan sister German* to the said Hugh McCowan with advice of John Templeton her husband hath assigned to Mr John Steel, Minister & James Howat Kirk treasurer at Old Cumnock for the use and behoof of the poor of that paroch & the bills & assignation are left in the said Treasurer's hand .

**German – germain/jermain – having the same parents.*

Cumnock 5th September 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

The Session being informed that Hugh Thomson and Marion Johnstone have been married irregularly they are appointed to be cited against next Lord's Day.

Cumnock 12th September 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Alexander Johnstone, George Murdoch, John Vallance, Robert Douglas and James Howat.

Hugh Thomson and Marion Johnstone being called both compeared and produced their marriage lines signed by one John Smith Celebrater and James Gillies and Archibald Robertson, witnesses and owned before the Session that they adhered to their marriage.

Cumnock 12th September 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, Robert Douglas, Andrew Wilson, George Murdoch and James Howat.

The Session appoint Alexander Johnston, Robert Douglass & the Sesssion Clerk to revise the Treasurer's accompt and to report.

John Sutherland having appeared this day in publick for the 1st time attended the Session at night and profess'd his sorrow for his sin and was ordered to appear next Lord's Day in order to be absolv'd.

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Cumnock 10th October 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnstone, Andrew Hodge and James Howat.

The Committee appointed to revise the Treasurer's accompts report they revised them and found them just and left in his hand £50 11s 7pence - £45 0s 7 pence bad and £5 11s of good.

The Session having received a letter from the Presbytery Clerk informing that the presbytery had comitted to them the examination of John Fergusson and James Murdoch in order to their proving suspicion of guilt betwixt Mr Campbell ad Elizabeth Murdoch as is alleged by her. The Session appoint them both to be cited before them against this day eight days.

John Sutherland having this day appeared in publick for a 6th time and made publick profession of his repentance by declaring before the Congregation a sense of his sin, his sorrow for the same and resolution of amendment through the strength of God was absolv'd.

Cumnock 17th October 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, Andrew Wilson, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch and James Howat.

Robert Douglas is appointed Elder to the presbytery until next Synod.

Compeared James Murdoch, aged about eighteen, unmarried, no objection made, purged of malice and partial counsel, solemnly sworn and interrogate depones he never but once alleged but once her master was too familiar with her but says he had no ground for saying so. The deponent was likewise at Mr Campbell's desire asked whether or not about the end of May 1741 he knew of the said Elizabeth going out along with a man at ten if clock at night and staying with him until about two or three a clock in the morning. Depones that he did know of her going out at the time alleged with a man, and that she said that she was going to see what the people watching (washing?) cloaths at the burn were doing and depones that she staid about two hours and that Mrs Agnes was angry at her when she came in for so doing, and was likewise interrogate at Mr Campbell's desire if about the beginning of May was a year a message came to the said Elizabeth Murdoch from Cumnock immediately after dinner and that she went whither Mrs Agnes would or would not and if Mr Campbell sent not the Deponent about eight or nine oclock at night to bring her home and if he the deponent founde her not sitting in a change house with dragoons. Depones he does not exactly remember the time of the year nor of Mrs Agnes endeavouring to hinder her but remembers that two messages came for her from Cumnock, that she went down a little after and that Mr Campbell, his master, sent him down about nine oclock at night to bring her home and that he found her in a change house with two soldiers where her aunt and husband were in company and that

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she detained him for some time, still saying that she would goe with him and that the soldiers were unwilling to part with her and took her promise that she would meet them next morning to goe with them to Dumfries and that it was past midnight awhile when he went home with her and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Signed John Steel, moderator. James Murdoch.

John Fergusson being summoned was called compeared aged about twenty nine years, married, no objection made, purged of malice and partial counsel solemnly sworn depones that James Murdoch

never spoke to him about Elizabeth Murdoch and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Signed John Steel, moderator, John Fergusson.

(The next entry was omitted from a 1753 rewrite of the Kirk Sessions and was inserted in page 162.)

Hugh McGavin in this town having informed the Session that there is a malicious report raised of his having been guilty of steeling sheap from Alexander Gibson in Old Byer & that Andrew Mitchell has raised and propagated the same, desires that Andrew may be summoned before the Session to see what he can say about it. He is therefore ordered to be cited against this day eight days.

(The following entry was also omitted from the 1753 rewrite of the Kirk Sessions and inserted in page 162 of the Session register.)

Cumnock 24th October 1742

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnstone, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch, James Howat & John Templetoun.

The Session appoint Robert Douglass to be their Elder to the Presbytery until the next meeting of the Synod.

Andrew Mitchell being called compeared & owned that he said to James Johnstone shearer in Underwood that he heard that Hugh McGavin had stolen the sheep alleged and said likewise before the Session that the said Hugh was reputed a thief while he lived in the Parish of New Cumnock but denies that he was the first raiser of that slander of his having stolen the said sheep from Alexander Gibson and accuses him likewise of stealing a lamb from John Reid in Templand which he says he was informed of by Elizabeth Reid.

Hugh McGavin to prove that Andrew first affirmed positively that he stole the sheep from Alexander Gibson condescended on. James Johnstone in Underwood and his wife, David Murdoch in Cumnock and his wife Isobell Wilson & her daughter Marjory and Robert Richmond in Cumnock.

Robert Richmond, Isobell Wilson and Marjory Murdoch are appointed to be cited against this day eight days and the minister is to write to Mr Cowpar desiring him to cause summons James Johnstone & his wife who are in his parish to that dyet.

Cumnock October 31st 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Alexander Johnstone, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge and James Howat.

There being a report that Mary Silar in Glengyron is with child in uncleanness the session order her to be cited before them against Thursday next.

Hugh McGavin & Andrew Mitchel being called both compeared and both agreed to acquiesce (acquiesce) in the testimony of the person cited without taking their oath and accordingly James Johnstone in Underwood being called compeared & declared that he heard of the sheep alledged being stolen from Alexander Gibson and that he asked Andrew Mitchell if he knew who had been

guilty of that theft, to which Andrew answered that he heard it was Hugh McGavin, the truth of which Andrew Mitchell likewise owns.

The Session thinking it proper to examine Alexander Gibson and his family about this affair appoint him and his brother James and George Padine (George Peden) his servant to be cited before them against Thursday next.

The minister reports from the presbytery that they order Margaret Osburn to be examined by the Session of Cumnock they at the time in the Country.

Cumnock October 31st 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, George Murdoch, James Howat and John Vallance.

Mary Siller being called compeared & denied that she was with child in uncleanness.

Compeared Alexander Gibson, unmarried aged twenty-eight, James Gibson unmarried aged nineteen, George Padine (Peden) aged twenty four years unmarried, all solemnly sworn depone that they never saw any appearance of Hugh McGavin about the sheep house nor never had the least suspicion of his having stolen or having had desyre to steal the sheep alleged and this is truth as they shall answer to God, signed Alexander Gibson, James Gibson, George Peden. John Steel, moderator.

Cumnock October 31st 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Wilson and John Vallance.

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There having been a flagrant report that Marjory Murdoch in this town is with child in uncleanness and she having been summoned to this Dyet was called compeared and owned she was with child in uncleanness to one William Campbell who came into the house she was serving in (Mrs Nicols) and got her with child whom she said she knew nothing about before nor knows not where to find him now.

The minister reports from the presbytery annent John Fergusson that unless he free himself of the guilt by oath an account of the affair is to be read publickly and he to ly under the scandal.

Cumnock November 14th 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnstoun, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge and James Howat.

Marjory Murdoch being called compeared and adhered to her accusation of William Campbell & was cited apud acta to the next Lord's Day.

Andrew Mitchell being called compeared and was Sessionally rebuked for slandering Hugh McGavin as above, acknowledged his fault in so doing, declared that it was not out of ill will to Hugh but that he only repeated what he heard others say.

Cumnock November 21st 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, John Templetoun, Alexander Johnstone, Andrew Hodge, Robert Douglass and George Muir.

Marjory Murdoch being called compeared and still persisted in accusing William Campbell.

Cumnock November 28th 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present.

John Fergusson came voluntarily before the Session and owned that he was guilty of fornication with Janet Caldow which he had before denied and is ordered to appear next Lord's Day to be rebuked and absolved for his guilt with Janet Caldow and his wife before marriage.

Cumnock December 5th 1742

John Fergusson was absolved this day.

Cumnock 19th December 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Robert Douglas, Alexander Johnstoun, Andrew Hodge, John Vallance and James Howat.

Anna Hair is summoned to compear before the Session against this day eight days on account of their being a report that she accuses James Lang, late servant in Leifnorries of being the father of that child she formerly gave to Quartermaster Lang.

Cumnock December 25th 1742

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnstone, John Templetoun, George Murdoch, James Howat and Andrew Wilson.

Anna Hair being called compeared and declared that James Lang is the father of her child and that before he left the country he owned the same before James Mirrie and his wife and gave her some

money for the child's maintenance. James Mirrie and his wife are ordered to be cited likewise against this day eight days.

Cumnock January 2nd 1743

James Mirrie and his wife being both called compeared and declared they heard James Lang own that the child brought forth by Anna Hair was his.

Cumnock January 9th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister Alexander Johnstone, Robert Douglass, George Murdoch.

The Minister produced a letter from the Kirk Session of Carriden acquainting that by advice of the presbytery of Linlithgow, the Session was to cite James Gibbin Lochnorries before them and to gett judicial acknowledgement of the guilt of fornication with Margaret Weir in the said parrish of Carriden which he acknowledged by his letter produced to the Kirk Session of Carriden by the said Margaret Weir. He is therefore cited to compear before the Session against this day fortnight.

Cumnock January 23rd 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, John Templetoun, George Murdoch, John Vallance and James Howat.

James Gibb being called compeared, owned he was guilty of fornication with Margaret Weir and this Session is to correspond with the Session of Carridean and to remit them the said James Gibb's judicial confession.

Janet Caldw in Cumnock having been guilty of fornication with John Fergusson, messenger in Cumnock, which is to them both relapse, she is ordered to appear in publick next Lord's Day for the first time.

In regard of Robert Douglass not being able to attend the Presbytery, John Templetoun is this day chosed in his place to attend until the next Synod.

Cumnock January 30th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templetoun, John Vallance, Andrew Hodge, Andrew Wilson, Robert Douglass.

William Wilson and Margaret Grier are appointed to appear in public this day for the first time.*

**there is no previous entry re their "offence" – it has possibly been omitted in the re-writing of the Kirk Session minutes in 1753.*

Cumnock February 6th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templetoun, John Vallance, Andrew Hodge, Andrew Wilson, Robert Douglass.

William Wilson and Margaret Grier having appeared this day for a second time were appointed from the pulpit to wait on the Session and being called compeared were both Sessionally rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to appear in publick next Lord's Day in order to be absolved.

Cumnock February 17th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, Robert Douglass & James Howat.

Marjory Murdoch having brought forth a child in uncleanness and being desirous to have it baptized came voluntarily this day before the Session, owned that she was desombling* before in saying that one William Campbell was the father of her child and declared that James Campbell, brother to the Laird of Horsecleugh is father of the child and that the child was begot in Edinburgh.

**desombling = dissembling – concealing facts*

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William Wilson and Margaret Grier were absolved on the 13th instant.

Cumnock March 6th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, George Muir, John Vallance & James Howat.

The Session order the Clerk to write to James Campbell desiring him to wait on the Session this day eight days in the morning in regard Marjory Murdoch is pressing to have her child baptised.

Cumnock March 6th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnston, George Murdoch, George Muir and James Howat.

James Campbell denied that he was guilty of fornication with Marjory Murdoch.

Jannet Caldwell having appeared this day in publick for the 5th time came this night before the Session. Declared her great sorrow for her sin of a relapse into fornication with John Fergusson and was ordered to appear in publick this day eight days in order to be absolved.

There being a flagrant report that Isabel Stillie in Broomhill owns herself to be guilty of fornication, she is ordered to be cited to compear before the Session against Thursday next.

Sarah Aird informs that Margaret Bruntoun has been frequently guilty of slandering her in a most inhumane and unchristian manner and that particularly on Saturday last was eight days she called Sarah both a whore and a thief and went to the place where Sarah's husband was buried and uttered a great many expressions that reflected on her good name such as that it was no wonder she had no children to her husband because she had been some othere mens pad* horse. The said Sarah condescends at witnesses for proving that Margaret Bruntoun treated her in the above manner vis: Jean Wilson, Christian Patrick, Margaret Arthur, Margaret Forrest and James King and his wife Margaret King who were all cited to this day eight days.

**pad – a lady's saddle.*

James Campbell having been written to sent no answer and is appointed to be cited against next Lord's Day and Marjory Murdoch is to attend.

Cumnock March 17th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnston, Robert Douglass and James Howat.

Isobell Stillie being called compeared and owned that she was guilty of fornication with William Logan, son to Charles Logan in Broomhill which is for her a relapse. She is cited to compear before the Session against Sunday come eight days to which Dyat William Logan is likewise to be cited.

Cumnock March 20th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister and all the Elders except George Murdoch and John Vallance.

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Marjory Murdoch being called compeared and being asked if she adhered to her accusation of James Campbell, brother to the Laird of Horsecleugh said she did, afterwards denied that Mr James Campbell was the father of the child and said she was threatened to say so when on great agony under her pains and that William Campbell in the head of the Cannongate whom she first accused was really the father of her child and stuts by this last when Mr Campbell came and was present and being asked why she accused Mr Campbell when she was seriously exhorted to be ingenious before the Session without **naming** anybody. She said it was to get the child baptised and that she said she freed him of the above accusation. Upon which the above James Campbell protested and took instruments in the hands of Archibald Wallace, Session Clerk that he should be instantly absolved from the above accusation as false and groundless.

The Session appoint this affair to be laid before the Presbytery by the minister and Elder to the Presbytery at their next meeting for advice.

Janet Caldwow having appeared in publick this day for the sixth time was absolved.

Cumnock March 27th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge and James Howat.

The Session appoint Alexander Johnstone and the Session Clerk to revisit the Treasury accounts and to take Robert Douglas along with them.

Isabel Stillie and William Logan having been appointed to be cited to this dyet were both called and compeared and were to be cited against this day eight days.

The affair betwixt Margaret Brunton and Sarah Aird is delayed until this day eight days.

The minister informs from the Presbytery that they order this Session to convene David Murdoch and Isobel Wilson against this day eight days that they may enquire what they know about James Campbell's having owned that he was the father of the child brought forth by Marjory Murdoch or his dealing with her to retract her accusation of him.

Cumnock March 27th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, George Muir, Robert Douglas, John Templetoun, Andrew Hodge.

The committee revised the Treasurer's accounts & found in his hands sixty-nine pound four shillings Scots whereof £13 10s 5 pence Scots bad money.

Margaret Brunton compearing was Sessionally rebuked and exhorted to a more circumspect walk and dismissed for this time.

William Logan being cited compeared not and it is informed that he is in Irvine. To wick Kirk Session this Session is to write in order to cause him be summoned.

Isobel Stillie being cited called compeared and continued to accuse William Logan and is ordered to attend the Session as soon as William Logan can be summoned.

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David Murdoch being called compeared and said that he heard Mr James Campbell say he was acquainted with William Campbell whom she said was the father of her child and that he was desired by the said William to be kind to Marjery Murdoch which gave David ground as he says to believe that the said James Campbell himself was the father of his daughter's child, says further that James Campbell has been twice in his house where his daughter remains since he was accused of the guilt.

Isobel Wilson being called compeared and declared that she heard Mr Campbell Horsecleugh his brother say he knew William Campbell by eye sight as well as she knew him and that he had desired

him to take care of Marjory Murdoch's child and that James Campbell had been twice in her house* since Marjory accused him and had been frequently there before.

*in her house – David Murdoch and Isobel Wilson ran a “change house” – an inn or pub.

To the above two testimonies by David Murdoch and Isobel Wilson nothing was objected or replied by the said James Campbell.

(The following entries were missed from a rewrite of the Session records, and added at page 164.)

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Sarah Aird being called compeared and owned what she had before delated Margaret Brunton for was true and insisted in her pursuit. Margaret Brunton being called compeared and denied that she called Sara Aird a whore and likewise that she does not remember she called her a thief. Sara Aird offers to prove that Margaret Brunton slandered her as above by the witnesses before mentioned – Jean Wilson, Christian Patrick, Margaret Forest, Margaret Arthur, James King and Margaret King. The witnesses above named having been all cited to this dyet were all called & compeared all and no objection against any of them that Margaret Brunton could verify.

The above James King, aged about thirty-five or thereby, Margaret king, above thirty, Margaret Forrest, aged about twenty-six, Jean Wilson, aged about twenty, Christian Patrick aged about twenty, Margaret Arthur, aged about fourty all solemnly sworn.

Depones James King aged as above, purged of malice and partial counsel depones that at the time lybelled he heard Margaret Brunton say passing by his own door that it was no wonder Andrew Cameron could not get Sarah Aird with child when she was his wife for she had been a man's pad before and she believed if it were as great as a ?carr by it would not do the turn, and that the said day he heard Margaret Brunton say Jane Aird had filshed some candlesticks and a ruggie out of Liefnorries & heard her say on the Munday following that Sara had stolen them and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Signed James King, John Steel moderator.

Margaret King, married, being purged of malice and partial depons nihil novil*.

**nihil novi – Latin. “Nothing new”.*

Jean Wilson unmarried being purged of malice and partial counsel depones that she heard Mary brunton call Sara Aird both a whore and a thief and condescends on a candlestick she had stolen and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Signed Archibald Vallance, John Steel, minister.

(The following entries are continued from page 69.)

Christian Patrick unmarried purged of malice and partial counsel depones that she heard Margaret Brunton say that Sara Aird had stolen two candlesticks out of Leifnorries. Did not hear Margaret Brunton call her a whore but says she the deponent heard her say that Sara had lyn with two unmarried men whom she heard her name and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Session Clerk to subscribe for her. Archibald Wallace, John Steel, minister.

Margaret Arthur married, being purged of malice and partial counsel depones that she heard Margaret Brunton say that she never stole any candlesticks as she had done out of Leifnorries but knows not perfectly who she meant, but knows that she was scolding Sara Aird at that time when she spoke about stealing the candlesticks and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Declares

she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Archibald Wallace, Clerk. John Steel, Minister.

Cumnock April 17th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, James Howat, Robert Douglas, John Vallance and George Muir.

William Logan's father having been at Irvine not having been able to bring him here, the minister is to write to the minister and Kirk Session of Irvine to cause cite him before this Session against this day fourtnight to which dyet Isobel Stillie is also to be cited.

Andrew Mitchel and his wife, James Findlay and Agnes Mitchel his spouse, Jean Mitchell and Marion Rankine and Andrew Mitchell are all ordered to be cited before the Session against this day eight days, it being alleged that they know something of James Campbells haunting David Murdoch's house and of his unlawful conversation with his daughter Marjory. It is likewise informed that Alexander Stewart huntsman knew of James

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Campbell's being in David Murdoch's house after midnight and that he saw such behaviour betwixt him and Marjory Murdoch that he left the house about midnight tho' he had resolved to lodge there all night. It is also alleged that Annabella Symontoun knows something about this affair which the minister is likewise to mind.

The session order James Howat, Kirk treasurer to uplift a hundred left in the hands of Mr Robert Douglass, Preacher, by William Muir of Bruntwood being a years annual rent of two thousand merks due to the poor of the parish of Old Cumnock by Bruntwood and to grant discharge for the same.

Cumnock April 24th 1743

Session met ante meridiem after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, John Templeton, Andrew Hodge, John Vallance and James Howat.

William Logan came of his own accord before the Session and owned that he was guilty of fornication with Isobel Stillie who was likewise present and at their own desire were both appointed to appear in the publick place this day for the first time.

Eodem Die, post meridiem

Presentilus ut supra.

John Templeton is chosen Elder to the presbytery till the next meeting of the Synod.

Marjory Murdoch being called compeared adheres to her accusation of William Campbell. Mr James Campbell being called likewise compeared.

Andrew Mitchell & Isobel Samson his wife, Agnes Mitchell, Marion Rankine & Jean Mitchell having been all cited were all called & compeared. All gave an account of their age and were habile.* Both James Campbell and Marjory Murdoch declared they had no objection against any of them, but Mr Campbell discouraged them from swearing by all means he could so that they were averse except Andrew Mitchell unless they had been compelled, whereon the Session sisted* at the time & ordered an extract hereof and what past before to be laid before the presbytery, which behaviour of Mr Campbell's the session looked on unanimously as a presumption of his guilt.

**habile – found to be competent or qualified.*

Cumnock May 1st 1743

Session met after prayer.

All present excepting John Templetoun.

William Logan compeared this day in publick for a second time and was rebuked and desired to wait upon the Session which he hath done and upon outward appearance of his seriousness and satisfying account if his knowledge was appointed to appear next Lord's Day in order to his being absolved.

The minister reports that those who refused to depone in James Campbell's affair if they persist are to be peremptorie cited to the presbyterie.

Whereupon the Session appoint them the above four women & Andrew Mitchell

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together with Elizabeth Macervail, James Mitchell and Agnes Wilson his wife & James Samson to be summoned against this day eight days and also William Hamilton in Chang and Bessy Thomson in Cumnock.

Cumnock May 8th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, George Murdoch, Robert Douglas & James Howat.

William Logan having appeared this day for a third time was absolved.

Marjory Murdoch having been called compeared and persisted in accusing William Campbell and freed James Campbell as formerly.

Andrew Mitchell being called compeared, aged about twenty seven, married and Mr Campbell now objects that Andrew Mitchell went through the town in order to persuade people to depone in this cause and desires that his deposition may be taken with this nota & protests that he may be allowed to prove these circumstances against Mitchell and what other circumstances may lend to lay his

evidence. To which it was replied that at his late compearance Mr Campbell declared he had no objection against him, and that now he has no witnesses present to prove these which reasons of objection Mr Campbell says happened since his last compearance.

The said Andrew Mitchell being solemnly sworn depones that on the night of the second day of the May Fair in Cumnock last year, a little before daylight going, he saw Mr James Campbell go into Marjory Murdochs father's house and heard the hautboys* playing there a good part of the night which he took to be Mr Campbell because he knows nobody else in the place that plays upon them, that he did not see him go out but that Marjory's father and mother told him afterward that he went out about the break of day, which he thinks would be about two a'clock and that the same night betwixt one and two in the morning he heard in that house thro' a thin wall that was betwixt him and it some noise & stir which he took to be unseemly carriage betwixt a man and a woman but does not know who it was. Being asked if he heard other people in the house answered yes. Depones he has seen Mr Campbell several times since going into David Murdoch's house but never at untimeous hours. Depones that he heard Marjory Murdoch say the child was to Mr Campbell and that if he were come home she would not be so scarce of money, but told not what Mr Campbell it was. Depones also that David Murdoch frequently had told him since his daughter was known to be with child that he jealoused* Mr James Campbell to be the father and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Declared he cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for him. Archibald Wallace, Clerk. John Steel, Minister.

**hautboys – a musical instrument, or player of the instrument - an oboe*

**jealoused - suspected*

Compeared Isobel Samson, married, aged above twenty, no objection made, purged of malice and partial counsel, solemnly sworn depones that David Murdoch's wife told her since Mr James Campbell came last from Edinburgh that David and her had been dealing with Mr Campbell to own

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their daughter's child, that he said Marjory Murdoch should not want whit he had a halfpenny on the earth but that he would never confess to Mr John Steel the Minister while he lived, saw him going frequently in and out into David Murdoch's but never saw him drinking privately with Marjory nor saw any indecent behaviour betwixt them and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Archibald Wallace, Clerk. John Steel, Minister.

Compeared James Finlay, aged about thirty, married, no objections made, purged of malice and partial counsel, depones that he knows nothing but sees Mr Campbell going in and out to the house as before but saw him not so doon meikle* in the house as before the scandal as he remembers going very late in or coming out early and this is notwithstanding of his living opposite to David Murdochs door and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. James Finlay. John Steel, Minister.

**not so doon meikle – not so very much*

Compeared Marion Rankine, aged about eighteen, unmarried, no objection made. Depones that she saw Mr James Campbell going in and out to David Murdoch's as other folks and that Marjory Murdoch told her that the child was to James Campbell before he came last from Edinburgh which was about the time of her confessing to the Session and this is the truth as she shall answer to God.

Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Archibald Wallace, Session Clerk. John Steel, Moderator.

Compeared Jean Mitchell, aged betwixt eighteen and nineteen, unmarried, no objection made, solemnly sworn depones that she never saw any suspicious carriage betwixt Mr James Campbell & Marjory Murdoch but Marjory Murdoch told her before Mr Campbell came last from Edinburgh that he was the father of her child and as to his going in or out of that house she did not observe it, not lying opposite to it. Depones that she heard Marjory Murdoch likewise say since Mr James Campbell came from Edinburgh that he was the father of her child and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Session Clerk to subscribe for her. Archibald Wallace, Session Clerk. John Steel, Minister.

Compeared Agnes Mitchell, aged about twenty six, married, no objection made, solemnly sworn, depones that she heard before Mr James Campbell came from Edinburgh last Marjory Murdoch say the child was to him and heard Marjory Murdoch's mother say that Mr James Campbell owned it to her and that Marjory Murdoch added that she wished James Finlay might not tell Mr Campbell at Edinburgh lest it should hinder his coming home and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Archibald Wallace, Session Clerk, John Steel, Minister.

Compeared William Hamilton, aged about twenty seven, unmarried, no objection made, solemnly sworn depones that he never

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saw any unseemly carriage betwixt Marjory Murdoch & James Campbell and saw him three or four times in David Murdoch's house since he came last home and that he was there once or twice at the deponent's desire and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. William Hamilton. John Steel, Minister.

Compeared Elizabeth Mackervail, aged above forty, married, no objection made, purged of malice and partial counsel, depones she knows no ground to suspect undue familiarity betwixt James Campbell and Marjory Murdoch, that she did not observe him going in or coming out of David Murdoch's house but heard Marjory Murdoch's mother say the child was to Mr James Campbell but that he would not confess to Mr John Steel, minister here, but would confess to any other and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. (Signed) Archibald Wallace, Clerk. John Steel, Minister.

Compeared James Mitchell aged about thirty, unmarried, depones that he did not see Mr Campbell in David Murdoch's house since he came from Edinburgh but heard Marjory Murdoch and both her parents alledge that Mr James Campbell was the father of the child but did not positively say it and depones that he does not remember whether he heard them say so about the time the deponent was sponsor at baptising the child but thinks it was within a few days out or in and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. James Mitchell. John Steel, Minister.

Compeared Agnes Wilson aged about 26, married, no objections made, purged of malice and partial council depones she knows nothing about Mr James Campbells correspondence with Marjory Murdoch but heard her mother say they had no other father to give the child to but Mr James Campbell and that this was about the time when the child was baptized and this is the truth as she

shall answer to God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Archibald Wallace, Session Clerk. John Steel, Minister.

Anent a petition given in by Charles Wilson, the Session order Alexander Johnstone & Robert Douglas to confer with Baillie Fergusson about it and whatever they agree on the Session is to stand to it and order a certificate to be wrote in the terms agreed on by them and to be sent with an extract of this to the presbytery and in case the minister be not at home the subscription of two or three Elders is to be as good as if it had been subscribed by the minister.

Cumnock June 19th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Wilson.

Isobel Stillie having appeared in publick this day for a 5th time for the sin of fornication with William Logan, being to her a relapse was ordered from the pulpit to wait on the Session which she did and having been exhorted to be serious on her profession of repentance examined and declared her sorrow for her sin was appointed to

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appear in publick next lord's day in order to be absolved.

On a report that William Hamilton in Shang* and Jean Osburn are irregularly married, and likewise James Fergusson and Janet Stillie in this town, they are all appointed to be cited to the Session against this day eight days.

**Shang – Chang/Changue*

Cumnock June 26th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnstone, Andrew Wilson, George Muir, John Vallance and James Howat.

William Hamilton and Jean Osburn being called compeared, owened that they were irregularly married at Glasgow by one John Smith.

James Fergusson and Janet Stillie being called compeared not and are ordered to be cited for a 2nd time against next Lord's Day.

Isobell Stillie was this day absolved.

Cumnock June 26th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except John Vallance.

James Fergusson and Janet Stillie being called compeared and owned their being irregularly married and produced a certificate of the same subscribed by one John Smith and two witnesses. Thid affair is to be laid before the Presbyterie. James Fergusson declares he saw the man write his certificate with his own hand.

Cumnock July 10th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

Execution of summons having been sent against William Howatson subscribed by James Killoch, Kirk Officer at Sanquhar and witnesses, he was called and compeared not.

Cumnock July 17th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Johnstone, John Vallance, Andrew Hodge, James Howat.

The Session order'd the Session Clerk to write to the minister of Sanquhar to cause cite William Howatson before this Session, to the minister of Muirkirk to cause cite Margaret Weir both against this day fourtnight.

On a report that James Gibb and Agnes Clerk are married irregularly at Glasgow, they are appointed to be both cited against this day fourtnight.

Cumnock July 31st 1743

Ante meridiem. Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

The Session have resolved to dispense the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in this place against this day fourtnight.

Eodem Die. Post meridiem.

James Gibb and Agnes Clerk being called both compeared and owned their irregular marriage and produced a certificate of the same subscribed by one John Smith & two witnesses.

The Session resolves to meet on Friday in order to pray and concert the Communion Roll.

No execution was sent form Sanquhar against Howatson.

Cumnock 5th August 1743

After prayer by several members of the Session, concerted their communion roll which was approved and is contained in a separate piece of paper and kept in relentis.

Cumnock August 28th 1743

Sederunt Minister and all the Elders except George Muir and Andrew Hodge.

The Session appoint the Committee viz Alexander Johnstone, Robert Douglas and the Session Clerk to revise the Treasurer's accounts.

Cumnock September 4th 1743

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, John Vallance, Andrew Wilson and John Templeton.

The Committee report they revised the Treasurer's accounts, found them just and left in his hands £72 10s 7pence of which £62 5s 9pence good and £10 4s 10pence bad.

Cumnock September 4th 1743

Sederunt Minister, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, John Templeton.

On a report that George Dunbar younger in Auchingibbert had upon the Munday after the Sacrament in this place falen on James Mackervail in Blackfall who was then under undisposition of body and had most inhumanly beat and bruised him to the effusion of a great quantity of his blood and danger to his life he is appointed to be cited before the Session again next Lord's Day to which dyet James Mackervail is also to be cited.

Cumnock 2nd October 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, John Templeton, George Murdoch, Alexander Johnstone, James Howat, John Vallance.

George Dunbar being called compeared not and is appointed to be cited pro secundo against this day eight days.

Cumnock October 9th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

George Dunbar being called compeared and owned that on the Munday after the Sacrament he had beat James Mackervail but alleged that some time ago there had been a quarrel betwixt the said James and him by the exchange of some hot words which was the occassion of his resentment and beating him at that time. The affair is delayed for some time untill the Presbytries advice be taken.

Cumnock December 25th 1743

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, Robert Douglass, John Vallance, George Murdoch, Andrew Wilson.

George Dunbar is appointed to be cited to before the presbytry against Wednesday come three weeks.

Cumnock January 1st 1744

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, George Murdoch, John Templeton, John Vallance & James Howat.

George Dunbar having been cited to this dyet was called and compeared not and is appointed to be cited against this day eight days.

Cumnock January 8th 1744

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Hodge.

George Dunbar being called compeared not and is ordered to be cited against this day eight days.

Cumnock 15th January 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, Andrew Wilson, George Murdoch , John Templetoun, Andrew Hodge and George Muir.

George Dunbar being called compeared and was informed that the Presbytry had ordered him to appear publickly before the congregation and be rebuked and to be delayed until his conversation be noted for some time in obedience to which appointment of the Presbytry he is appointed to be cited to appear before the Session this day against this day eight days.

On a report that James Girvan in Watston had been guilty of profanation of the Sabbath by offering on that day before witnesses to hire a servant, he is appointed to be cited before the Session against this day eight days.

Cumnock 15th January 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, George Murdoch, George Muir, John Templetoun and James Howat.

James Girvan being called compeared not and is appointed to be cited against this day eight days.

Cumnock January 29th 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, John Vallance and James Howat.

James Girvan compeared and denied that he was guilty of breaking the Sabbath as had been alleged and is cited apud acta against Thursday come eight days.

Cumnock February 12th 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Andrew Wilson, John Templetoun, John Vallance and James Howat.

The minister reports from the Presbytery that they order Marjory Murdoch to be laid under the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication and to be rebuked publicly before the Congregation.

The witnesses alleged to know something about James Girvan's affair are ordered to be cited against this day fourtnight to which dyet James Girvan is also to be cited. The witnesses are James and Janet Hair and Jean McCron.

Cumnock February 16th 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, John Templetoun, Alexander Johnstone and George Murdoch.

Marjory Murdoch being called compeared not and is appointed to be cited against next Lord's Day.

On a report that Elizabeth Caldow in Burn is with child, she is appointed to be cited before the Session against this day eight days.

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Cumnock February 19th 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, James Howat.

Elizabeth Caldow being called owned herself guilty of fornication with Robert Souter, mason in Cumnock and both of them are appointed to be cited before the Session against Sunday next.

Cumnock February 26th 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templeton, Andrew Wilson, George Muir, John Vallance, James Howat.

James Girvan being called compeared not.

James Hair being called, compeared aged about sixty, unmarried, purged of malice and partial counsel, interrogate upon oath, depones that James Girvan came to his house on a sabbath day and alleged his having hired a son of James McRaes and threatened if he would not enter he would fetch him with a constable as he had done other and this is the truth as he shall answer to God and declares he cannot write and desires the Clerk to sign for him. Archibald Wallace.

Compeared Jean McCron aged above forty, married, purged of malice and partial council depones conformis praecedent in omnibus*. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Archibald Wallace.

**conformis praecedent in omnibus – as per the preceding evidence in all areas*

Compeared Janet Hair, aged twenty seven, unmarried purged of malice and partial council interrogate upon oath depones as the other two above. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Archibald Wallace.

The Session being informed that George Dunbar Elder in Auchingibbert had been railing against the minister and Session for prosecuting his son, he is appointed to be cited against next Lord's Day to see what reason he has for the same.

Elizabeth Caldow being called compeared and adhered to her accusation of Robert Souter who having been called compeared also and denied guilt with the said Elizabeth Caldow. The said Elizabeth Caldow having been asked about what time the said Robert Souter was guilty with her said it was about three or four days before Lammas* and she has no presumption but that about a year agoe David Crichton saw him lay rude hands on her before John McCrachans door and reproved him for it, who is appointed to be sited against next Lord's Day to which dyet Robert Souter and Elizabeth Caldow are both cited apud acta.

**Lammas – traditionally August 1st, to celebrate the beginning of harvest time.*

Cumnock March 4th 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Robert Douglass, Andrew Wilson and James Howat.

Elizabeth Caldow being called compeared and persisted in her accusation of Robert Souter. Robert Souter being called compeared and continued to deny guilt with the said Elizabeth Caldow.

David Crichton being called compeared, aged about thirty eight, unmarried, no objections made, purged of malice and partial council. Depones that he never saw them in company nor saw the said Robert lay hands on the said Elizabeth Caldow. (signed) David Crichton.

Andrew Wilson is appointed Elder to the next Presbytry.

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Cumnock 11th March 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

The Session this day appointed a Committee viz Alexander Johnstone, Robert Douglass and the Session Clerk to revise the Treasurer's accounts and to report.

The Minister reports from the Presbytrie that George Dunbar is to have the liberty of another day to make his appearance and acknowledgement of his fault and if he do not submit to that he is to be laid under the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication, which was reported this night to the said George Dunbar present in the Session and he is allowed by the Session to make his appearance any Sabbath he pleases before the next meeting of the Presbytry.

James Girvin being called compeared not and is appointed to be cited pro secundo against this day eight days.

Cumnock 15th March 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Wilson.

The Committee named last Lord's Day to visit the Treasurer's accounts report they did so and found them just and that there is at present in his hands £90 14s 3pence where of £74 10s 3pence good and £15 4s bad money.

Cumnock Aprile 2nd 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

It being informed that Marjory Murdoch is free of nursing Mr McAdams child, she is to be cited before the Session against this day eight days.

George Dunbar appeared this day in publick according to the Presbytery's appointment and his absolution is delayed until his conversation for some time after this to be noticed.

George Dunbar was rebuked for speaking reproachfully of the minister and Kirk Session and dismissed and James Girvan was rebuked for discoursing with a servant annent hiring with him and threatening him on the Sabbath Day.

On a report that Jean Goldie, daughter to John Goldie, Miller had brought forth a child in uncleanness she is to be cited against this day eight days.

Cumnock Aprile 29th 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

Marjory Murdoch being called compeared and was laid under the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication which is to be intimated to the Congregation next Lord's Day.

Jean Goldie being called compeared not and is to be cited pro secundo against this day eight days.

Cumnock 6th May 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Robert Douglass and Andrew Hodge.

Jean Goldie being called compeared and owned that Charles Harvie was the father of the child brought forth in uncleanness and is delayed until the minister return from the Assembly.

Cumnock May 27th 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Robert Douglass.

The Session orders the Session Clerk to write the Minister of Sorn* to cause cite Charles Harvie.

**Minister of Sorn – by this time, this was William Steel, John Steel's son.*

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before this Session and to send execution of the summonds.

Cumnock 10th June 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, John Templeton, George Murdoch and James Howat.

Received on Tuesday last from William Muir of Bruntwood one hundred merks Scots as the @ (annual) rent of the five thousand merks Scots which the Treasurer is ordained to grant discharge for the same.

On information by the Session Clerk that Charles Harvie is to be cited before the Session against this day eight days, the officer is ordered to cite Jean Goldie to the same dyet.

Cumnock June 17th 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

On account of no execution of summons being sent from the Sorn, the Session Clerk is ordered to write to the minister of Sorn desiring that he may be cited against this day eight days and Jean Goldie to be cited to the same dyet.

Cumnock 1st July 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, George Murdoch, George Muir, John Templeton and James Howat.

There having been no execution sent from the Sorn, the Session order the Clerk to write to the Sorn to cause him to be summonsed against next Lord's Day and execution of the summons to be sent.

On a report that Jean Fisher is with child in uncleanness, she is ordered to be cited before the Session against this day eight days.

Cumnock July 8th 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister and all the Elders.

Jean Fisher being called compeared and owned she was with child in uncleanness to James Drummond, taylor, who is now working with William Marshall in the New parish, who is ordered to be cited against this day fournight.

Cumnock October 14th 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

The Session appoint Alexander Johnstone and the Session Clerk to revise James Howat's accounts and , make their report at the next meeting.

Cumnock June 17th 1744.

The Treasurer's accounts were revised by Alexander Johnstone, Elder and Archibald Wallace, Session Clerk who found them just and left in his hands £195 13s 9pence, whereof £173 12s 2pence good and £22 1s 7pence bad.

Cumnock November 8th 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steele, minister, Alexander Johnstone, Andrew Wilson, Elders and James Howat, Deacon.

The Session being informed that John Mitchell, late planter in Jamaica had in his Testament of the date February fifteenth one thousand seven hundred and thirty left in legacy to the poor of the parish of Old Cumnock the sum of fifty pounds sterling or Jamaica money less or more. The Session therefore nominate and appoint Mr John Steele, Minister and James Howat, Kirk Treasurer to grant proper powers for

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recovering the same.

Cumnock November 18th 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, John Templetoun, John Vallance, Andrew Wilson and James Howat.

The Session appoint George Alexander and Betty Cochrane to be cited before the Session against Thursday next on account of their irregular marriage and appoint Jean Goldie to be cited to the next Lord's Day and order the Session Clerk to write to the minister of Sorn that he may cause Charles Harvie be cited to the same dyet and Jean Fisher and James Drummond also to be cited to the same dyet.

Cumnock November 22nd 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister. Alexander Johnstone, John Templeton, John Vallance and James Howat.

George Alexander being called compeared and owned his irregular marriage with Betty Cochrane, was rebuked for the same. Alledged for an excuse that his wife could not come out by reason of the storm and gave his promise that if it be in his power that both he and she shall attend next Lord's Day.

Cumnock November 25th 1744.

Sederunt Minister, George Murdoch, John Templetoun, George Muir, John Vallance.

Both George Alexander and Elizabeth Cochrane compeared before the Session, owned their being married persons, produced a certificate of their marriage signed by one John Smith and witnesses.

Jean Fisher being called compeared not.

James Drummond being called compeared and denied guilt with Jean Fisher. He is cited apud acta against this day fourtnight to which dyet Jean Fisher is also ordered to be cited.

Cumnock December 9th 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister. Alexander Johnstone, Andrew Hodge, John Vallance, George Murdoch and James Howat.

Charles Harvie being called compeared and denied guilt with Jean Goldie. Jean Goldie being called compeared and persisted in her accusation of Charles Harvie and says this child was begot in the parish of Dalgain near his own house. Charles Harvie gives his promise and was cited to attend the Session this day fourtnight to which dyet Janet Goldie is to be cited.

Jean Fisher being called compeared, persisted in accusing James Drummond. James Drummond being called compeared and denied guilt with Jean Fisher and they being confronted Jean Fisher declares that the child was begot betwixt Burnwalltrees and Caponacre upon the night of the first day of March last. They are both appointed to attend the Session against this day three weeks.

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Cumnock December 30th 1744.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, George Muir, Andrew Hodge, John Templetoun, John Vallance and James Howat.

Jean Fisher being called compeared not.

James Drummond being called compeared and persists to deny guilt with Jean Fisher. The Session order this affair to be laid before the Presbytery for advice.*

The Session appoint Elizabeth Caldow and Robert Souter to be summoned before them this day eight days.

**No mention of this in Ayr Presbytery records.*

Cumnock 3^d February 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister. Alexander Johnstone, John Templetoun, George Muir and James Howat.

The Session appoint the officer to cite Jean Goldie, James Drummond, Jean Fisher, Robert Souter and Elizabeth Caldow before the Session this day eight days.

There being a flagrant report that Jean Nicol in this town is with child, The Session appoint her to be cited before the Session against Sunday next.

Cumnock 3rd February 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister. Alexander Johnstone, John Templeton, Andrew Wilson, Andrew Hodge and James Howat.

Jean Goldie being called compeared and was cited apud acta peremptorily to compear before the Presbytery of Ayr upon Wednesday the twentieth and seventh instant.

James Drummond being called was also summonsed peremptorily to compear before the Presbytery on the same dyet.

Jean Fisher being called compeared not and is ordered to be cited pro secundo against this day eight days.

I, John Sloan in Cumnock, being constantly molested especially on the Lord's Day by Bessy Thomson, spouse to John Good in Cumnock think it my duty to inform the Session of her behaviour. The said Bessy makes it her usual practice to go into her neighbours houses on the Sabbath and makes exorbitant demands for butter, barley, egg and other provisions and if she be denied utters most horrid curses and imprecations by which she frightens any wife and other sober people whom she treats in the same manner, and therefore ought to be liable to Church censure for her unchristian behaviour of breaking the Sabbath, cursing and sweating, threatening her neighbours which she is commonly guilty of and seems to pride herself in, to the great prejudice and offence of those that live near her. (signed) John Sloan.

Robert Souter being called compeared and was cited to compear before the Presbytery in the same dyet.

Elizabeth Caldwell being called, compeared and was peremptorily cited to the same dyet.

Jean Nicol being called compeared and denied she was with child in uncleanness.

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Cumnock 17th February 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister and all the Elders except Andrew Wilson and Andrew Hodge.

Jean Fisher being called compeared and was cited peremptorily apud acta to compear before the Presbytery of Ayr at Ayr upon Wednesday come eight days.*

On a report that Agnes Miller, spouse to James Fisher was with child to him before marriage, being a relapse to them both, they are cited to compear before the Session against this day eight days.

**No mention in Presbytery records.*

Cumnock 24th February 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except George Muir.

James Fisher and Agnes Millar being both cited, none of them compeared and were both appointed to be cited against this day eight days.

Cumnock 17th March 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, Alexander Johnstone, Andrew Wilson, John Templetoun and James Howat.

On information by John Sloan that Bessy Thomson in Cumnock has been guilty of profanation of the Lord's Day of swearing and cursing, she is to be cited to the Session against this day eight days.

The minister reports from the Presbytery that Robert Souter did not attend and he is ordered to be cited against this day eight days, and that James Drummond attended but was not willing to clear himself by oath but said that before he lay under the scandal he would swear. He is ordered to be cited against this day eight days and the minister to the Session of Sorn to cause Charles Harvie to be cited to the same dyet.

The Session appoint Alexander Johnstone and Archibald Wallace to revise the Treasurer's accounts on Friday next.

Cumnock 24th March 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister and all the Elders except Andrew Hodge and Andrew Wilson.

Robert Souter being called compeared and according to the desire of the Presbytery was asked if he was willing to clear himself in oath, said he was upon which the Clerk was desired to give him a copy of the oath.

James Drummond being called compeared not.

Bessy Thomson being called compeared and owned that she borrowed a little butter on the Sabbath day. Denied she was guilty of cursing or swearing, profanation of the Sabbath or molesting her neighbours.

John Sloan offers to prove his lybell by witnesses Margaret Brunton, Mary Caldow, Janet Nivin, Robert Gault and Marrion Palmer, Jean Fisher, Jannet Hemphill and Elizabeth Reid in Hillside, Baillie Duncan, Christian Wilson, Janet Fergusson, Marion McCowan and Charles Thomson's wife.

The committee appointed to revise the Tresurer's accounts report that they revised the same found them just and left in his hands of good and bad money two hundred and thirty six pounds Scots.

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Cumnock 31st March 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister, George Murdoch, Andrew Wilson, Alexander Johnstone and James Howat.

James Fisher and Agnes Miller having appeared in public this day for the fifth time their relapse into fornication before their marriage attend the Session and were seriously exhorted to repentance, made profession of the same and of grief for their sin and were ordered to appear in publick this day eight days for absolution.

John Sloan being called compeared.

Besy Thomson being called compeared.

Robert Gault being called compeared. Bessy Thomson objected against him witnessing in this affair because he threatened to strike her, which she offers to prove and farther offers to prove that he the said Robert Gault is guilty of cursing and swearing and offers witnesses James McGill, Hugh Good in Montrau and George Good, Charles good and his wife to prove that Robert Gault was guilty of cursing and swearing about an arrestment* of effects belonging to Anna Brown, used in John Sloans hands at the instance of Robert Gault, which he the said Robert Gault denies. Upon which the witnesses in the town are ordered to be cited against the next Lord's Day and the witnesses who were distant to the town to be delayed till some time after.

**arrestment – seizure of property re debt etc.*

Margaret Brouton being called compeared not and is ordered to be cited against this day eight days pro secundo.

Christian Wilson being called compeared not and is ordered to be cited against this day eight days.

Marion Campbell being called compeared not. And is ordered to be cited pro secundo against this day eight days.

Jean Fisher being called compeared not. And is ordered to be cited pro secundo against this day eight days.

Marion McCowan being called compeared not. And is ordered to be cited pro secundo against this day eight days.

Elizabeth Reid being called compeared not. And is ordered to be cited pro secundo against this day eight days.

John Sloan passes from Bethie Duncan.

Cumnock Aprile 7th 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Howat.

Robert Gault being called compeared.

James McGill being called compeared, aged thirty eight, married, no objections made, purged of guilt and partial counsel, solemnly sworn depones the he never heard Robert Gault threaten Bessy Thomson and this is the truth as he shall answer to God.

Charles Good being called compeared not. His wife informed that he was lying sick.

Penelope Donald being called compeared, aged forty three or thereby, married, purged of malice and partial counsel solemnly sworn depones conformis praecedente*.

Compeared Robert Gault aged about thirty six, unmarried, nothing of what Bessy Thomson alleged against him proven, purged of malice

** conformis praecedente – as per the preceding evidence*

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and partial counsel depones that he never saw Bessy Thomson on the Lord's Day troubling her neighbours by asking or borrowing provisions nor heard her cursing or swearing on the Lord's Day but heard both John Sloan and Bessy Thomson cursing and swearing on a week day about three weeks agoe. But the deponent cannot remember the particular expressions. The deponent not being removed says upon recollection he remembers that he heard Bessy Thomson ask bear* from Margaret Brunton on the Lord's day, but knows not whether it was in loan or in payment of what she had borrowed, but Bessy says it was what she had lent to Margaret Brunton and that she lent it on the Sabbath day and this is truth as he shall answer to God. Signed Robert Gault.

Cumnock Aprile 14th 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

On information that William Howatson in Wanlockhead was cited by the Kirk officer of Sanquhar to compear before this Session this day, he was called but compeared not, whereupon the Session order the Clerk to write to the Session of Sanquhar to cause cite him to be cited pro tertio against this day three weeks.

Cumnock 21st Aprile 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt minister, Alexander Johnston, George Murdoch and James Howat.

Christian Wilson being called compeared, aged about thirty six or thereby, no objection made, depones negative except that Bessy asked (for) a little butter on the Sabbath Day and said it was to dress a little veal for her husband who was sick. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her, Signed Archibald Wallace.

Elizabeth Reid being called compeared, no objection made, aged about fourty, solemnly sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel depones that Bessy Thomson came to her on the Sabbath Day and asked if the butter she had to sell was away and that she answered it was and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Signed Archibald Wallace. Session Clerk.

Compeared Jean Fisher aged about thirty three, no objections made, purged of malice and partial counsel depones that Bessy Thomson came into her house on the Sabbath and asked two eggs and that she never asked any other thing from her on the Sabbath and this is the truth as she shall

answer to God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Signed Archibald Wallace.

Compeared Marion Campbell aged about forty, purged of malice and partial counsel depones that Bessy Thomson never cursed or swore upon her being refused the loan of any thing and that she never asked a loan except a little salt or barley at some different times and that

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she does not remember what days it was on and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Signed Archibald Wallace, Session Clerk.

Cumnock 28th Aprile 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

The Session being informed that Wallacetoun had left in the Treasurer's hand twenty pounds Scots as a years annual rent of six hundred Marks. They order James Howat, Kirk Treasurer to discharge the same.

Compeared Janet Hemphill aged about fifty, no objection made, solemnly sword, purged of malice and partial counsel. Depones that on a Sabbath Day Bessy Thomson came into her house and asked the loan of a little bit of salt and that when she the deponent aske why, she did not provide it, on the Saturday evening Bessy answered that she could not get it for money. Depones likewise that on another Sabbath she sent one of her children onto the deponent's to borrow the full of an ale-cup of knocked bear but does not remember whither she got it or not and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to sign for her. Signed Archibald Wallace, Session Clerk.

Marion Rankine being called compeared and owned she was with child in uncleanness to James Campbell, brother to the Laird of Horsecleugh and that the child was got near Burnswelltrees.

Cumnock 2nd June 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister and all the Elders except George Murdoch and George Muir.

Marjory Murdoch having appeared for the 2nd time in publick professing repentance for the sin of fornication as ordered by the Presbytery compeared before the Session, was examined and seriously exhorted to repentance and was appointed to appear in publick next Lord's Day in order to be absolved.

Cumnock July 7th 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

Robert Souter is appointed to be cited to the Presbytery against Thursday next and James Drummond is appointed to be cited against this day eight days before the Session.

James McGeachan and Janet Sloan his wife are at the desire of the Session of New Cumnock appointed to be cited to the said Kirk Session of New Cumnock against this day eight days.

Cumnock 28th Aprile 1745.

Ante meridiem. Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

The Session resolve that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper be dispensed in this place against this day three weeks, it being thought the most proper time and appoint intimation to be made to the Congregation from the pulpit.

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Margaret Brunton being called compeared aged about thirty eight, married, no objection made, purged of malice and partial counsel, depones that one day Bessy Thomson sought the loan of bear from her, that the deponent refus'd to give it. Depones that Bessy Thomson gave her some back language but does not remember the expressions. Depones also that Bessy Thomson borrowed a gown coat and plaid from her on the Sabbath and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Signed Margaret Brunton.

Compeared Janet Ingram aged about twenty six, married, no objection made, solemnly sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel depones that Bessy Thomson came into her house on the Sabbath and asked a little butter which she could not give her, depones that the said Bessy upon being denied went straight out of the house without either cursing or swearing or threatening her and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Signed Archibald Wallace.

Marion McCowan being called compeared, aged about fifty six unmarried, no objection made, purged of malice and partial counsel depones that Bessy Thomson never troubled her on the Sabbath day otherways than by asking two eggs on a sabbath day and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Signed Archibald Wallace.

The witnesses who compeared not are ordered to be cited against this day fournight viz Christian Wilson, Janet Hemphill, Elizabeth Reid and Marrion Campbell and Jean Fisher.

James Fisher and Agnes Millar were absolved having appeared for a 6th time.

Eodem die, post meridiem.

Sederunt ut supra.

The officer informing that he had summoned James Drummond to this dyet, he not having had the opportunity of getting him before. The said James Drummond was called but compeared not and is appointed to be cited pro secundo against this day eight days.

Cumnock 4th August 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Hodge.

James Drummond being called compeared and was desired to consider a copy of the Oath of Purgation that was given him for two weeks or three.

Cumnock August 9th 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Hodge.

After prayer by several members the Session concerted their Communion Roll which was approved of and is contained in a separate paper and kept in relentis.

Cumnock August 25th 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

William Howatson and Margaret Weir having sent word they were to attend compeared before

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the Session and Margaret Weir continued to accuse William Howatson as the father of her child.

William Howatson continued to deny guilt with the said Margaret Weir. They are both cite to compear before the Session against this day fourtnight.

Alexander Johnstone and Archibald Wallace are this day appointed to revise the Treasurer's accounts.

Cumnock August 30th 1745.

The committee appointed to revise the Treasurer's accounts report they found in his hands £71 5s 2 pence whereof £67 1 s good and of bad money £4 3s 6pence.

NB he has the Minister's note for the sum of £198 13s 4pence Scots.

William Howatson also refused a copy of the Oath of Purgation when it was offered to him tho he said he was clear to swear and declares before the session that he had never got a testimonial from the Session of Cumnock assoilizing him from the above scandal as Margaret Weir alledged he had said.

Cumnock 8th September 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

William Howatson and Margaret Weir both called both compeared and Margaret Weir continued to accused William.

William Howatson still continues to deny guilt with the said Margaret Weir and they are both cited to compear before the Session against this day fourtnight. A copy of the Oath of Purgation was again offered to William Howatson which he refused to consider and offered to swear this day and said he would answer no longer.

Robert Souter and James Drummond are both cited to compear before the Session against this day eight days.

William Howatsons affair is to be laid before the Presbytery for advice.

Cumnock 15th September 1745.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister and all the Elders except Andrew Wilson.

Robert Souter being called compeared and declared he was willing to take the Oath of Purgation whenever desired.

James Drummond being called compeared and declared he was clear to swear and would willingly take the Oath of Purgation if he can be no other way cleared from the scandal.

Cumnock September 23rd 1746.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

Burntwood having sent up 100 merks to the Kirk Treasurer as the interest of 2000 merks preceding Candlemas 1745. The Session impower the Treasurer to discharge the same.

The minister reports from the Presbytery orders James Campbell to satisfy before the Congregation. The Session therefore agree that the Minister should write to Mr Key in Culton where Mr Campbell resides to order him to be cited before this Session against...*(no date – appears there are pages missing)*.

-There is no mention of the case in the Presbytery records. There is a gap in Coylton's Kirk Session records for the period covering this date.

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The Rev Mr John Steel, who had been minister in Cumnock since 1701 – a period of almost 45 years – died on 4th March 1746 “after a few days illness”. He last attended Ayr Presbytery on 5th February 1746. This appears to be the first Session meeting after his death. The minister presiding is William Steel, minister of Sorn, who is John Steel’ s son. There is no mention of the death, or any tribute recorded in the minutes at Cumnock or at Ayr Presbytery.

Cumnock March 9th 1746.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr William Steel, Minister of Sorn and all the Elders of this parish.

The Session appoint Alexander Johnstone and Archibald Wallace, Session Clerk to revise James Howat Kirk Treasurer here, his accounts and to report to the next consitut (*constitute*) Session what balance is in his hands.

Cumnock March 23rd 1746.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr George Reid, Minister of Ochiltree, John Templetoun, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch, George Muir, John Vallance and James Howat.

Alexander Johnstone and Archibald Wallace report they revised the Treasurer’s accounts & found them just and left in his hands one hundred and three pound fifteen shilling and ten pennies Scots of good and bad money viz nine pound fourteen shilling and six pennies bad money and the rest good money.

Cumnock August 3rd 1746.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Patrick Woodrow, Minister of Tarbolton, Alexander Johnstone, James Howat, John Templetoun.

Margaret Ritchmond compeared utroneously and owned herself with child in uncleanness to James Johnston junior in Cumnock who is appointed to be cited against this day fourtnight and she to attend.

Cumnock 17th August 1746.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Walker, Minister of Dundonald and all the Elders except Alexander Johnston and Andrew Hodge.

James Johnston compeared not this day, the officer having neglected to summond him thro his not advertising to the Sessions order to him to do so, he is therefore appointed to be sited against this day fourtnight.

Cumnock September 7th 1746.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt George Ballantine, Minister of Craigie and all the Elders of this parish except Alexander Johnstone.

Margaret Ritchmond being called compeared not and is ordered to be cited against the next day that sermon happens to be in this Congregation.

Cumnock 14th September 1746.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt John Hunter, Minister of Ayr, Andrew Hodge, George Muir, George Murdock and John Templetoun.

Margaret Ritchmond being called compeared not.

James Johnstone being called compeared and protested that the accusation was groundless and that he would not compear before the Session after this day and took instruments* in the hand of the Session Clerk because he had attended three times and she had never compeared.

**instrument – making a formal note/placing on record, with a view to appeal.*

Cumnock 5th October 1746.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt George Reid Minister of Ochiltree and all the Elders except Alexander Johnstone.

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Margaret Ritchmond compeared ultroneously. Declared that James Johnstone was the father of a child brought forth by her. Being asked if she could give any presumption* answered that James Johnston owned that the child was his before Mr Morris and that he likewise offered her money to give it to another before James Mitchell's wife.

**presumption – grounds/grounds for belief*

John Templetoun was this day appointed Elder to the Presbytery for the ensuing half year.

Cumnock November 16th 1746.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr David Cowpar, Minister of Auchinleck and all the Elders of this parish.

On a report that William Alexander, son to Robert Alexander of Muirdyke and Miss Mary Montgomerie, daughter William Montgomerie of Borland were clandestinely married at Edinburgh, they were both cited to compear before this Session on this dyet and being called compeared, owned they were irregularly married by Mr (blank space), a certificate of which they produced subscribed by him and witnesses. They adhered to their marriage, were Sessionally rebuked & dismissed.

Cumnock December 10th 1746.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister in Stair, all the Elders present except George Murdoch.

On a report that James Drummond and Jean Mitchell in this town were clandestinely married at Glasgow, they were cited to this dyet. Compeared, owned they were irregularly married, produced their marriage lines, were rebuked, adhered to their marriage and were dismissed.

Cumnock March 1st 1747.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr William Younger, Minister in Muirkirk, all the Elders present.

This day a letter from William Muir of Bruntwood directed to Alexander Johnstone and in his absence to James Howat, Kirk Treasurer, was produced to the Session signifying that he intended to up instantly the money belonging to the poor of this parish that is in his hand being the sum of two thousand merks of principal contained in a bond granted by the above William Moor (Muir) of Bruntwood to Charles Cochrane Esq, advocate dated thirty first January one thousand seven hundred and forty years and assigned by the above Charles Cochrane to the Kirk Session of Old Cumnock for the behoof of the poor of this parish and @rent (annual rent) due thereupon from Candlemass seventeen hundred and forty five years. The Session having considered the above appoint James Howat their Treasurer to uplift the above principal and annual rents and hereby empower him to discharge the same and report.

Cumnock March 8th 1747.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr David Cowper, minister of Auchinleck, all the Elders present except Andrew Wilson and Andrew Hodge.

Alexander Johnstone and James Houat being appointed to go to William Muir of Burntwood and receive from him two thousand merks Scots monie with two years annual rent due thereon at

Candlemass last reports that according to appointment they went to Bruntwood as above, received the two thousand merks Scots principal

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and delivered him up his bond granted by him to Mr Cochrane, advocate as also the assignation to the said bond granted by the said Mr Charles Cochrane to the Session of Old Cumnock for the use of the poor of this parish and promised to procure from the Session what discharge Bruntwood should require for his satisfaction and exoneration, as also they received one hundred merks in cash and a bill for seventy two pound three shillings and four pennies Scots which is all the annual rent due from Martinmass 1745 to the first of March 1747. The Session has considered the above report and approves.

Cumnock 26th Aprile 1747.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr William Auld, Minister of Mauchline. The Elders all present except Andrew Hodge and John Templetoun.

Having no Elder chosen for the Presbytery they Choose George Murdoch in Nethertoun to be their Elder for this ensuing half year.

Cumnock 10th May 1747.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr George Reid in Saint Quivox and all the Elders of this parish.

Alexander Johnstone report that George Wood in Garpal has made application to him for the loan of the two thousand Merks now lying in his hands which was received from William Muir of Burntwood in March last belonging to and for the use of the poor of this parish of Old Cumnock and offer James Gibb of Dalblair and William Rankine in Boighead surety of full cautioners with and for him for the above monie.

The Session has considered the above report and ordain Alexander Johnstone to give out to George Wood the money as above, he producing the above named James Gibb of Dalblair and William Rankine in Boighead & report

As also Alexander Johnstone reports that at the Session's desire Mr Archibald Wallace and he revised the Treasurer's accounts concerning the poor of this parish, James Howat being their present Treasurer the desbursments being all allowed there remains in the treasurer's hands the sum of one hundred and twenty nine pound nine pennies Scots money.

Cumnock May 31st 1747.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr David Cowper, minister of Auchinleck. All the Elders present.

Alexander Johnstone being in a former minute ordained to give out in loan to George Wood in Garpal the two thousand merks he had in his hands belonging to the poor of Old Cumnock, reports that according to their order he had given the money to George Wood & obtained a bond for the same payable to James Howat their Treasurer. James Gibb of Dalblair and William Rankine in Boighead cautioners for the said George Wood and has herewith produced the bond as above. The Session have considered the above report and approves and ordains the bond to be given to James Howat their Treasurer which is accordingly done in their presence.

Cumnock June 28th 1747.

Session met after prayer.

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Sederunt Mr William Walker in Mountain, Minister. All the Elders present.

Upon a report that Mary Caldow in this town was with child in uncleanness the Session ordered Alexander Johnstone and James Howat to go to her house and make inquirie of the fait* & report and ordered to church officer to cite her to compear before the session this day fortnight.

**fait - affair*

Cumnock 12th July 1747.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr George Ballantine, Minister in Craigie. All the Elders present.

Mary Caldow being summonsed to this dyet was called & compeared, owned herself with child in uncleanness to Alexander Mackwhirter, servant to Mr Gilbert McAdam, brother germain to James McAdam of Waterhead, now in Flanders. This Session supercedes any furdur* process until they see if the said Alexander Mackwhirter returns home.

**furdur - further*

Cumnock 11th October 1747.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr William Steel, Minister of Sorn. All the Elders present except John Templetoun.

At which time they chose Alexander Johnstone their Elder to the Presbytery for the enshuing (ensuing) half year.

Upon report that Jean Mitchell in this town was with child in uncleanness the Session ordered her to be cited to the Session the first sabbath they knew they were to have sermons.

Cumnock 1st November 1747.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr David Coupar, Minister of Auchinleck. All the Elders present.

Jean Mitchell in this town being cited to this dyet compeared not. The Session thereupon ordered her to be cited to their next dyet.

As also upon report that Isabella Cowan in Garralland is with child in uncleanness the Session has ordered her to be cited to their next Dyet.

Cumnock 15th November 1747.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr George Reid in Ochiltree, all the Elders present except Andrew Hodge.

Jean Nichol in this town being cited to this dyet for a second time was called & compeared was rebuked and exhorted to deal uprightly in her accusation, owned herself with child in uncleanness and gave Alin Atkin, chapman traveller, as the father of her child.

Isabella Cowan being cited to this Dyet was called, compeared, was rebuked & exhorted to be upright in her accusation. She owned herself with child in uncleanness and gave David Douglas in this town as the father of her child.

Cumnock November 29th 1747.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Patrick Woodrow, minister of Tarbolton. All the Elders present except Andrew Wilson and John Templetoun.

This day David Douglass merchant in this town came before the Session and owned himself to

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be the father of the child charged with by Isabella Cowan in Garralland and desired he might be admitted to appear in publick to give satisfaction to the Congregation for his sin and offence and desired he might be allowed to appear two dyats in one day and be absolved. The Session having considered the above request upon his readiness to own his offence and his humble behaviour before them and his great liberalitie* to the poor have allowed him to be rebuked twice in one day and be absolved which was accordingly done.

**liberalitie = generosity.*

Cumnock 20th December 1747.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr William Auld, minister of Mauchline. All the Elders present except Andrew Hodge.

Isabella Cowan in Garralland come before the Session this day having formerly acknowledged herself with child in uncleanness to David Douglass, merchant in this town and desired she may be allowed to appear in publick to acknowledge her sin and offence before the Congregation which was accordingly done and rebuked for the first time and ordained to continue her appearance.

Cumnock 10th January 1748.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John steel in Stair, Minister. All the Elders present except Andrew Wilson, John Templeton and Alexander Johnstone.

Jean Nickol and Allen Atkin in this town were both cited to this dyet, were called, compeared.

Jean Nickol adheared to her accusation. Allen Atkin being exhorted to deal honestly in the accusation laid against him denied the whole fait*.

**fait - affair*

Cumnock 17th January 1748.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr George Reid, Minister in Ochiltree. All the Elders present.

This day Jean Leis came before them and owned herself with child in uncleanness and accused William Templetoun in Pennyfadzeoch as the father of her child. William Templetoun being present owned the said accusation to be true.

The above Jean Leis desired to be admitted to appear in publick to satisfy for her sin & offence, the Session thereupon have allowed her to compear for the first time and be rebuked which was accordingly done and ordered her to continue her appearance.

Cumnock 14th February 1748.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr William Younger, Minister of Muirkirk, all the Elders present except Andrew Wilson & Andrew Hodge.

Alexander Johnstone reports to the Session that he and Alexander Moor officer of Excise had received the Treasurer's accounts and found in his hand resting after all debursments made by him to the poor of this parish preceeding this date one hundred and thirty eight pound , six shilling & eleven pennies Scots money. The Session approves.

Also that Jean Leis appeared in publick this day to acknowledge her sin and scandal of fornication with William Templetoun in Pennyfadzeoch for a second time, was rebuked and afterwards waited on the Session. The Session

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upon her appearing penitent and promise of a better behaviour in her after life appointed her to appear in publick next Lord's Day and be rebuked for a third time and be absolved.

Cumnock 21st February 1748.

Jean Leis appeared this day in publick according to the Session's appointment and was rebuked by Mr William Auld, Minister in Mauchline for a third time and was absolved.

As also Isabella Cowan appeared this day in publick for a second time and was rebuked by the above Mr William Auld for her sin and scandal of fornication with David Douglass

Cumnock 27th March 1748.

Session met after prayer before noon.

Sederunt Mr George Reid, minister of Saint Quivox, John Templeton, Andrew Hodge, James Howat, Alexander Johnston.

Isabella Cowan came before the Session this day and desired she ought to be allowed to appear in publick for a third time to satisfy for her sin and scandal of fornication with David Douglass and be absolved. The Session having considered the above petition ordains her to appear this day and be rebuked for a third time and be absolved, which was accordingly done.

Cumnock 27th March 1748.

Session met after prayer at noon.

Jean Wallace being cited to this dyet was called and compeared and owned herself with child in uncleanness and accused Robert Souter, mason in this town as the father of her child. The session cited the foresaid Jean Wallace apud acta to compear before them the next Lord's Day & ordained the officer to cite Robert Souter to compear to the said dyet.

As also Mary Pearson was cited to the said dyet, was called but did not compear. The Session ordain the officer to cite her to compear before them the next Lord's Day for a second time.

Cumnock 3rd Aprile 1748.

Session met after prayer before noon.

Sederunt Mr William Steel, Minister of Sorn. Elders all present except Andrew Hodge and Andrew Wilson.

William Templeton in Pennyfadzeoch came before the Session this dyet and desired he might be allowed to appear in publick to satisfie for his sin and scandal of fornication with Jean Leis and be rebuked for a first time, the Session having considered the above request ordered him to appear this

day and be rebuked for a first time which was accordingly done and ordered to continue his appearance.

Cumnock 3^d Aprile 1748.

The above Session met after prayer at noon.

Mary Pearson being brought before the Session, having born a child which was then dead and being ordered interrogate as to the father of the dead child she accused Adam Hunter as the father of the dead child. The Session ordered Adam Hunter to be cited before them against this day fortnight.

Also Jean Wallace and Robert Souter were both cited to this dyet were called. Jean Wallace compeared and adhered to her former accusation. Robert Souter compeared not. The Session order them to be both cited against this day fortnight.

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Cumnock 17th Aprile 1748.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr David Cowper, Minister of Auchinleck. All the Elders present.

William Templetoun in Pennyfadzeoch appeared in publick this day & was rebuked for his sin & scandal of fornication with Jean Leis for a second time and ordered to continue his appearance.

Also Adam Hunter in Barshair being accused by Mary Pearson of being the father of the child she had born in uncleanness, the Session ordered him to be cited to this dyet, was called, compeared and owned the accusation laid against him to be just.

Also Jean Wallace & Robert Souter were both cited to this dyet, were called compeared. Jean Wallace adhered to the former accusation, Robert Souter being interrogate owned the accusation laid against him and that he was the father of the child.

Cumnock 24th Aprile 1748.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt, Mr George Reid, minister in Ochiltree. All the Elders present.

William Templeton in Pennyfadzeoch appeared this day for a third time by appointment of the Session and was rebuked for his sin & scandal of fornication with Jean Leis and was absolved.

Cumnock 8th May 1748.

The vacancy occasioned by the death of the Reverend Mr Steele being supplied by the ordination of Mr Adam Thomson who was set apart for the office of the ministry on Thursday the 28th Aprile by the Laying on of the hands of the Presbytery on which occasion Mr Samuel Walker in Dalrymple preached from these words in Hoseah 14ch 9v who to wise and he shall understand these things be

in consequence of which ordination the Session this day met after sermon and being constitute by prayer.

Sederunt the minister with all the members.

They ordered Jean Wallace in this town to be cited before them against next Lord's Day and concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 15th May 1748.

Session met after prayer before noon.

Jean Wallace being cited to this dyet came before them and desired to be admitted to appear in publick this day to satisfy fir her sin and scandal of fornication with Robert Souter. The Session ordered her to appear in publick this day and be rebuked for a first time and to continue her appearances.

Cumnock 29th May 1748.

Session met after prayer.

All the members present.

Jean Wallace appeared this day in publick to satisfie for a second time and was ordered to continue her appearance.

James Howat reports that upon Thursday the twenty sixth instant he received from Mr Steele in Stair two hundred and thirty eight pound and two shilling Scots money due by the deceased Mr John Steele in Cumnock, his father. The Session ordains the said money to ly in the Treasurer's hands untill it be disposed of by ??Meny.

The Session appoints Andrew Wilson their Presbytery Elder for the enshuing half year.

Cumnock 12th June 1748.

Jean Wallace appeared this day in publick and was rebuked for a third time and ordered to continue her appearance.

Cumnock 19th June 1748.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt all the members except Andrew Hodge,

Jean Wallace appeared this day according to appointment and was rebuked for a fourth time and ordered to continue her appearances.

Cumnock 26th June 1748.

Jean Wallace appeared this day in publick for a fifth time and was rebuked and ordered to wait upon the Session.

Jean Wallace waited upon the Session at Evening according to appointment and desired she might be allowed to appear next Lord's day to be absolved from her scandal. The Session having considered the above request and her promise of a sober and better life for the time to come ordered her to appear in publick next Lord's Day and to be absolved.

Cumnock July 3rd 1748.

Jean Wallace appeared this day in publick according to the Session's appointment & was rebuked for a sixth time and was absolved according to their order.

Cumnock 8th July 1748.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Minister, John Templetoun, Alexander Johnstone & James Howat.

They knowing that there were some people under scandal that they had not opportunity to bring before them before this time thought it proper to cause their officer cite Alexander McQuirter and Mary Caldow and also Alin Atkin and Jean Nickol and Robert Souter and James Drummond all to compear before them next Lord's Day.

Cumnock 16th July 1748.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members except Andrew Wilson.

Alexander McQuhirter and Mary Caldow being both cited to this dyet were called. Mary Caldow compeared and adhered to her former accusation but Alexander Mcquhirter did not compear. The Session summoned her apud acta to compear before them the next Lord's Day and ordered their officer to summond him to the said dyet.

Alan Atkin, chapman traveler & Jean Nickol were both cited to compear before the Session this day, were called and compeared. Jean Nicol adhered to her former accusation and Alan Atkin to his denial. The Session summond them both apud acta to compear before them the next Lord's Day for a second time and ordered the said Alan Atkin to wait upon the minister and some of the Elders to converse with them betwixt and that time.

Concluded with prayer.

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Certificate granted to George Halbert from his infancy to the year 1743.

Cumnock 17th July 1748.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt all the members except Andrew Hodge.

Alan Aiken and Jean Nicol both cited to this Session were called and did compear. Jean Nicol still adhered to her former accusation with this additional circumstance – that Willaim Aikin the said Alen Aikens brother raised him out of her bed on Thursday after Cumnock's Martinmas fair on the year 1747 but Alan Aiken still adhered to his denial and denied the above circumstances also. The Session ordered William Akin to be cited before them to their next Dyet.

Alexander McWhirtor and Mary Caldow being also both cited to this Session were called in, consequence of which she compeared and adhered still to her former accusation but he did not compear whereupon the session ordered him to be cited before them pro tertio.

Concluded with prayer.

Certificate Date July 18th 1748 granted to John Wilson for the most part from his infancy to the year seventeen hundred and forty six.

Certificate granted to Mary Hamilton date July 31st 1748 from Martinmas 1747 to Whitsunday 1727.

Cumnock 24th July 1748.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the members all present except Andrew Hodge.

Alexander McWhirtor and Mary Caldow were both called but did not compear.

Alan Aitken and Jean Nicol called a d compeared. She still adhered to her former accusation, and he to his denial.

William Aitken called compeared and being interrogate concerning the above mentioned circumstance declared that on the day fix'd upon, upon going up to his own room he heard a noise in Jean Nicol's room and his brother's voice upon which he went forward and upon his entering at the room door a woman past him who he imagined was Jean Nicol and upon his asking his brother what he did there in the said Jean Nicol's room the said Allan his brother alleged that Jean had taken away his cloathes. Allen beign again called in and interrogate upon these particulars acknowledged that he was in the said Jean Nicol's room seeking his coat, hat and shoes which somebody had taken out of his own room as he was going to bed. The Session ordered their proceedings against Allan Aitken to be laid before the Presbytery.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 7th August 1748.

Session met after prayer.

The minister and all the Elders.

This day Margaret Thomson in Netherthird came before the Session and owned herself with child in uncleanness. After rebuked, the minister exhorted her to deal ingenuously in her accusation, she gave up John Dempster in

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the parish of New Cumnock as the father of her child whereupon the Session order Mr Watts their Clerk to write to the minister of New Cumnock to cause cite the said John Dempster before the Session of Old Cumnock against this day three weeks.

James Drummond mentioned in former minutes having privately acknowledged himself guilty of the scandal charged upon him and which he had for a long time obstinately denied, this day waited upon the Session and judicially acknowledged himself guilty of the sin of uncleanness with Jean Fisher also mention in former minutes and craved to be admitted to make a publick confession of his sin and profession of repentance before the Congregation this day. The Session considering the matter granted his desire after having rebuked him by the moderator for his sin and that gross disingenuity with which it had been attended and exhorted him to an unfeigned repentance.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock August 28th 1748.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Minister and all the Elders.

Mary Caldwell mentioned in former minutes made application this day to the Session to be absolved but the Session considering the difficulties of this affair appointed it to be laid before the Presbytery for their advice.

James Drummond appeared this day a second time, was rebuked and appointed to wait upon the Session after sermon, in consequence of which he attended and having professed his repentance and desire to be acquitted and absolved from the scandal the Session after having considered the matter and examined him as to the sense he had of his sin ordered him to make his last publick appearance next Lord's Day in order to his being absolved from the said scandal and at the same time appointed him to satisfy the Treasurer as to the penalty.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock September 4th 1748.

The Session met according to intimation from the pulpit and after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the Elders.

James Drummond mentioned in last minute not having made his appearance in the ordinary place of repentance in order to his being absolved as was agreed to last sederunt of Session, the Session enquired into the cause and find that he had not satisfy'd the Treasurer as to the penalty. They again upon his application renew last day's appointment and allow him upon the same condition to be rebuked & absolved next Lord's Day.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 11th September 1748.

The Elders met after sermons for counting the collections and distributing to the necessities of the poor.

Mr Cowper, minister at Auchinleck having preached this day, the minister of this parish being necessarily absent.

James Drummond appeared professing his repentance was rebuked for his sin and scandal and absolved according to last day's resolution and appointment.

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Cumnock 23rd October 1748.

The Session met after sermons according to intimation from the pulpit and James Howat, Treasurer having represented that it was now a considerable time since his accounts were revised and desired the Session to examine his accounts. The Session considering his desire do appoint Mr Thomson, minister, Alexander Johnston, Elder and Mr Watts, Clerk to revise the said accounts of his intromissions* with the poors money in his hand and report.

**intromissions – possession/management*

Cumnock 30th October 1748.

The Session met after sermons.

Mr Thomson, Minister, Alexander Johnston, Elder and Mr Watts, Clerk reported that according too the Session's appointment they had examined the Treasurer's accounts and after all debrursments made by the Session since last clearance which most be allowed him found in his hands of gold, silver good and bad copper coin the sum of ninety two pounds.

Cumnock November 13th 1748.

The Session met according to intimation from the pulpit and after prayer.

Sederunt, the minister with all the Elders.

There being no Elder for the presbytery, the Session therefore choose and appoint George Muir as their Elder to the presbytery for the ensuing half year.

Cumnock 18th December 1748.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt minister and all the members except Andrew Wilson and John Vallance.

A fama clamosa* concerning Elizabeth McGawn her being with child in uncleanness reach'd the Session it was judged proper to order her to be cited to attend the Session next Lord's day after sermons and the Session herby appointed their officer to summond her to compear against that day.

Wallacetouns* Elder and Younger pay'd into the Treasurer for the behoof of the poor of this parish the sum of sixty pounds Scots which with twenty pounds Scots formerly received and for which the had no receipt pays up the interest of a Bond granted by them to the said Kirk Session to the twenty eight of August one thousand seven hundred and fourty six for which the Session appoint the minister and Treasurer to grant receipt.

Concluded with prayer.

**fama clamosa – a rumour about immoral conduct which has been reported to the minister.*

**possibly James Wallace?*

Old Cumnock 25th December 1748.

The Session according to the last day's resolution and intimation from the pulpit met after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members except John Templeton and Andrew Hodge.

Elizabeth McGawn called but did not compear whereupon the Session ordered her to be summond to attend the next Lord's Day and in the meantime as the clamour still increases they judged it proper to send some women to examine her and accordingly having called Isobell More, midwife, Sarah Aird and Janet Hanna they appointed them for this purpose & to report which being done they brought in this report that they were unanimously of opinion that she was with child & pretty far advanced in her pregnancy. The Session refer the farder consideration of this affair till the next Lord's Day.

Concluded with prayer.

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Cumnock 1st January 1749.

The Session met according to intimation from the pulpit after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members.

Elizabeth McGavin was called compeared and being interrogate as to the fama clamosa* of her being with child in uncleanness and earnestly exhorted to deal ingenuously in her confession she denied the sin and scandal wherewith she was accused.

Jean Fisher mentioned in former minutes whose case being laid before the presbytery for advice was refer'd back to this Session to be proceeded in as they saw most for the use of edifying. Accordingly she attended and being earnestly exhorted to such an unfeigned and hearty repentance as might in some measure be suitable to the hainous nature of her scandal and offence was ordered to make her appearance next Lord's Day in the usual place of repentance.

Concluded with prayer.

**fama clamosa – a report to the church of a scandal, fervent gossip*

Cumnock 8th January 1749.

The Session met according to intimation from the pulpit after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members except George Muir and Andrew Hodge.

On a report that Mr Crawford surgeon in Old Cumnock and Mistress Jean Campbell, daughter to the deceased Mr Campbell late surgeon in Cumnock were clandestinely married they were both cited to attend the Session this day and being called compeared owned they were irregularly married by Mr (blank space) a certificate of which they produced subscribed by him and witnesses. They adheared to their marriage were Sessionally rebuked and dismissed.

A report being spread that Elizabeth McGavin mentioned in former minutes had privately confess'd to some folks that she was with child in uncleanness the session therefore ordered their officer to summond her to attend the next Lord's Day after sermons.

Jean Fisher according to last day's appointment appeared this day for the first time was publicly rebuked & ordered to continue in the profession of her repentance in the usual place.

Allan Atkin mentioned in former minutes being summoned to appear before the Session this day was called compeared and being by the moderator earnestly exhorted to deal ingenuously was interrogate if he was the father of the child whereof Jean Nicol accused him he still deny'd the charge whereupon the Session cited him apud acta to appear before the Presbytery their next meeting.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 15th January 1749.

The Session met according to intimation from the pulpit after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members except John Templetoun.

Elizabeth McGavin was called but did not compear whereupon the Session ordered her to be summond pro tertio to appear before them next Lord's Day after sermons

A fama clamosa concerning Elizabeth Crawford her being with child in uncleanness having reach'd

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the Session they therefore judged it proper to cite her to compear before them next Lord's Day & accordingly ordered their officer to summond her to attend them against that day.

Jean Fisher appeared this day for the second time according to the last days appointmen was publicly rebuked & ordered to continue in the profession of her repentance.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 22nd January 1749.

The Session met according to intimation from the pulpit after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members except George Muir.

Elizabeth Crawford was called compeared and being interrogate confess'd she was with child in uncleanness for which the moderator exhorted her to a sincere and unfeigned repentance and earnestly desires her to be ingenious in acknowledging to whom she was with child whereupon she accused John Currie in the parish of Ochiltree as the father of it.

Jean Fisher appeared this day for the third time according to the last days appointment was publicly rebuked & ordered to continue in the profession of her repentance.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 22nd January 1749.

Jean Fisher appeared this day for the fourth time in publick was rebuked & ordered to continue in the profession of her repentance.

Cumnock 5th February 1749.

Jean Fisher appeared this day for the fifth time in publick was rebuked and ordered to continue in the profession of her repentance.

Cumnock 12th February 1749.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Minister and all the members.

Mary Caldow mentioned in former minutes having craved to be admitted to make a publick confession of her sin of uncleanness with Alexander McWhirtor as she aledges & profession of her repentance of her sin before the Congregation the Session considering the matter granted her desire and appointed her to make her appearance this Lord's Day in the usual place of repentance which accordingly she did was rebuked for the first time and ordered to continue in the profession of her repentance.

Jean Fisher appeared this day for the sixth time in publick was rebuked and ordered to continue in the profession of her repentance.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 19th February 1749.

The Session met according to intimation from the pulpit.

Sederunt the minister and all the members except Andrew Hodge.

Mary Caldow mentioned in last days minutes who according to appointment appeared this day for the second time in publick was rebuked and after sermon made application to the Session professing her repentance desiring to be acquitted.

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and absolved from the scandal they after having considered the matter and examined her as to the sense she had of her sin ordered her to appear the next Lord's day in the usual place of repentance in order to her being absolved from the said scandal and at the same time appointed her to satisfy the treasurer as to the penalty.

Jean Fisher made her appearance this day according to appointment for the seventh time and was ordered to continue the profession of her repentances.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 26th February 1749.

The Session met according to intimation from the pulpit and after prayer.

Sederunt the minister, Alexander Johnston, James Howat, John Templeton.

Hugh Wilson whom Elizabeth McGavin accused as the father of her child being personally apprehended called compeared and having exhorted to act ingenuously was interrogate whereupon he acknowledged himself guilty of the sin and scandal of uncleanness with the said Elizabeth McGavin.

Jean Fisher appeared this day for the eight time in publick was rebuked & ordered to continue in the profession of her repentance.

Mary Caldow mentioned in last days minutes and not having made her appearance in the ordinary place of repentance in order to be absolved as was agreed to last sederunt of Session the Session enquired into the cause & found she had not satisfied the Treasurer as to the penalty, they again upon her application renew their last days resolution and admit her upon the same condition to be rebuked and absolved next Lord's Day.

Cumnock 12th March 1749.

The Session met before sermon, and after prayer.

Sederunt the minister Alexander Johnstone, George Muir, Andrew Wilson Elders.

Elizabeth McGavin mentioned in former minutes having made application to the Session craving to be admitted to make a publick confession of her sin & profession of her repentance. The Session considering the matter granted her desire and appointed her to appear this day in the ordinary place of repentance.

Concluded with prayer.

According to the appointment of the Session forenoon Elizabeth McGaving appeared this day was rebuked and ordered to continue in the profession of her repentance.

Cumnock 19th March 1749.

The Session met according to intimation from the pulpit and after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the Elders except George Muir.

Elizabeth McGavin who appeared this day the second time in publick made application to the Session professing her repentance & desiring to be absolved from the scandal, they after having examined her as to the sense she had of her sin & exhorted her in the most earnest manner to a sincere repentance not

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only of the sin of uncleanness but also of the aggravating circumstance of dissimulation with which it was attended granted her, her request and ordered her to appear in public next Lord's Day in order to be absolved.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 26th March 1749.

According to last days resolution Elizabeth McGavin appeared this day in publick and was absolved

Cumnock 23rd Aprile 1749.

The Session met according to intimation from the pulpit and after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members.

Jean Fisher mentioned in former minutes who appeared this day in publick made application to Session professing her sorrow and repentance & craving to be absolved, they after aving examined her as to the sense she had of her sin and exhorted her to a sincere and unfeigned repentance ordered her to appear before the presbytery there next time of meeting in order to be examined and for further advice in what manner she should be proceeded with.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 7th May 1749.

Jean Fisher mentioned in last days minutes having made profession of her repentance before both Session and Presbytery was admitted to make her last appearance this day in the usual place and after being rebuked & earnestly exhorted to a better behaviour for the future was acquitted and absolved from the scandal*.

Concluded with prayer.

**No mention in the Presbytery records.*

Cumnock 25th June 1749.

The Session met according to intimation from the pulpit after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members.

Hugh Wilson mentioned in former minutes being summond to compear before them this day after sermon was called but did not compear upon which the Session ordered their officer to summond him a second time to appear before them next Lord's Day after sermons.

Concluded with prayer.

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Cumnock 16th July 1749.

The Session met before sermon and after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members except James Howat.

The moderator propos'd whether they were still of the last Day's resolution in appointing the second Sabbath of August being the 13th day for the celebration of the Lord's Supper of if they had any reasons for altering it, they received again their last day's resolution and appointed 13th day of August for this purpose.

Concluded with prayer.

No date – July 1749.

The Session met according to intimation from the pulpit after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members.

Allan Atkin called but did not compear upon which the Session ordered their officer to summond him again to compear before them their next meeting.

A fama clamosa of Sara Weir being with child in uncleanness having reached the Session they therefore appoint their officer to summond her to compear before them against this day fourtnight after sermon.

James Howat Treasurer represents that it was a considerable time since his accounts were revised desired the Session to examine them they considering his desire appoint Mr Thomson, minister, Alexander Johnston, Elder & Mr Watts. Clerk to revise the said accounts of the poor money in his hands and to report.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 30th July 1749.

According to intimation from the pulpit the Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members.

Sara Weir mentioned in the minutes of last Sederunt was called compeared and being interrogate owned she was with child in uncleanness upon which the moderator after having rebuked her desired her to deal ingenuously in confessing to whom she was with child, in consequence of this she accused John (*actually James*) Rankin weaver in Cumnock as the father of it.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 20th August 1749.

According to intimation from the pulpit the Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members.

They ordered their officer to summon Hugh Wilson mentioned in former minutes to compear before them against next Sabbath after Sermon as also James Rankine whom Sara Weir charged as father of her child and Adam Hunter, who having formally confessed to some of the members that he was the father of Mary Pearson's child of which she was then reputed the murderer but the Session declining at that time to proceed against him till they saw the event of her trial & that affair being now determined they think it proper therefore without any further delay to summons the said Adam Hunter to compear before them and examine more particularly into the matter.

Cumnock 29th August 1749.

Session met according to intimation from the pulpit and after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members except Andrew Hodge.

Hugh Wilson mentioned in last minutes called compeared and being examined by the moderator as to the sense he had of his sin and whether he was desirous to be purged from the scandal he was lying under upon his appearing much concerned and desirous to be admitted to make publick satisfaction the session ordered him to appear in the usual place of repentance against this day fourtnight.

Sara Weir mentioned in former minutes having compeared before the Session professing her repentance & signified her desire to be purged from her sin & scandal and after the reasons of this desire were examined into the Session granted her request and ordered her to appear in the usual place of repentance against this day fourtnight.

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James Rankine called compeared & being interrogate owned himself the father of the child of which Sara Weir had accused him.

Adam Hunter who had formerly acknowledged himself the father of the child in uncleanness with Mary Pearson the murder of which she was executed at Ayr but the Session for reasons mentioned last days minute declining then to proceed against him was called compeared, still owned himself guilty, professed his repentance and earnestly desired to be admitted to make publick satisfaction but the Session having ordered others to make their appearance and considering some particular circumstances in his case thought it proper he should appear alone in publick and therefore appointed him to wait till farther orders by the officer.

Cumnock 10th September 1749.

According to appointment of the Session Hugh Wilson and Sara Weir appeared in public for the first time this day were rebuked & ordered to continue in the profession of their repentance.

Cumnock 10th September 1749.

Hugh Wilson and Sara Weir made their second appearance this day in publick were rebuked for their sin and scandal & ordered to continue with the profession of their repentance.

Cumnock 17th September 1749.

Session met according to intimation from the pulpit and after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members except James Howat.

Sara Weir mentioned above made application to the Session professing her repentance & earnestly desiring to be absolved from the scandal of uncleanness with James Rankine the Session considering the matter after having examined her as to the sincerity of her repentance and ordered her to satisfy the Treasurer as to the penalty granted her request & ordered her to appear next Lord's Day in publick in order to be absolved.

George Muir having represented that the time for his being presbytery Elder was expired & desiring the Session would now choose another in consequence of this they appoint John Templeton for this purpose the ensuing year.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 15th October 1749.

According to the last days appointment Sara Weir appeared this day in publick for the third time was rebuked and absolved from her sin and scandal of uncleanness.

Cumnock 22nd October 1749.

Session met according to intimation from the pulpit and after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members except Andrew Hodge.

Allan Atkin mentioned in former minutes being summoned to appear before the Session this day was called in in consequence of which he compeared and after having exhorted him to deal ingenuously was again interrogate whether or not he was the father of the child whereof Jean Nicol accused him to which he replied he was not and still denied the charges and being again asked if he was in Jean Nicol's room on the Martinmas fair night according to his bothers former declaration this he also denied tho' he acknowledged it once before the session upon which the moderato having exhorted him to act a fair and honest part and to take the matter into serious consideration they dismis'd him and ordered to apply to the presbytery.

The Session also having taken into consideration the case of Adam Hunter mentioned in former minutes they therefore appoint their officer to order him to appear the next Lord's Day in the usual place of repentance in order to be rebuked for the sin and scandal of uncleanness committed with Mary Pearson

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 29th October 1749.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members except Andrew Hodge.

A fama clamosa having reached the Sessiion of Mary Mcrae

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her being with child they therefore appoint their officer to cite her to appear before them the next Lords Day after sermon.

According to the appointment of the Session last Lords Day Adam Hunter appeared in publick for the first time was rebuked for his sin and scandal and ordered to continue in the profession of his repentance.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 5th November 1749.

According to intimation from the pulpit the Session met and after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members except Andrew Hodge.

Mary Mcrae mentioned in last days minutes called but did not compear and after having examined into the matter the officer told that he had done his endeavours to find her but nobody could give any account where she was as she had been for some days out of the place. The session renewed their orders to cite her again to compear before them next Lords Day.

Adam Hunter made his second appearance this day was rebuked and ordered to continue in the profession of his repentance.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 12th November 1749

The Session met according to intimation from the pulpit and after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members except Andrew Hodge.

Mary Mcrae called compeared and being asked as to her being with child she acknowledged that she was, the moderator after having rebuked her for her sin and scandal and exhorting her to deal ingeniously as to the father of the child upon which she being asked accused John Sutherland as the father of it, they ordered her to wait upon them when called.

The Session agreed to meet next Lord's Day in Alexander Johnstones before sermon & ordered their officer to cite John Sutherland before them.

Adam Hunter mentioned in former minutes made application to the Session confessing his sin & craving to be absolved, the Session after having examined him as to the sense he had of his sin and appointing to satisfy the Treasurer as to the penalty granted his request and allowed him to appear next Lords Day in order to be rebuked and absolved.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 19th November 1749

According to the last days resolution the Session met before sermon.

Sederunt the minister and all the members.

John Sutherland called in consequence of which he compeared and being asked whither he was the father of the child with which Mary Mcrae had charged him he acknowledged he was upon which he was rebuked and exhorted to a sincere repentance.

And James Rankine mentioned in former minutes made application to the Session confessing his sin professing his repentance craved to be admitted to appear in the usual place of repentance in order to make publick satisfaction for his scandal, the Session after considering the matter granted him his request and appointed him to make his appearance in order to be rebuked and at the same time they appoint their officer to order Mary Mcrae to appear also in publick in order to be rebuked.

According to last days appointment Adam Hunter appeared this day in publick for the third time was rebuked exhorted & absolved from the sin and scandal.

Cumnock 26th November 1749

Mary Mcrae appeared this day in public according to the last days appointment was rebuked for the first time and ordered to continue in the profession of her repentance.

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Cumnock 3^d December 1749

James Rankine made his first appearance this day was rebuked and ordered to continue in the profession of his repentance.

Mary Mcrae appeared in the usual place of repentance for the second time and was rebuked.

Cumnock 10th December 1749

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members.

James Rankine who appeared a second time in public this day was rebuked and made application to the Session confessing his sin & professing his repentance and earnestly craving to be admitted to appear next Lords Day in publick in order to be rebuked and absolved from the scandal the Session after examining him as to the sense he had of his sin granted him his request. In like manner Mary Mcrae applied to the session to be absolved they after having examined her and considering the affair appointed her to appear in the usual place of repentance in order to be rebuked and absolved.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 17th December 1749

According to the Session's appointment James Rankine and Mary Mcrae appeared this day for a third time the one in the morning and the other in the afternoon were rebuked exhorted and absolved.

Cumnock 4th March 1750

The Session met according to intimation from the pulpit and after prayer.

Sederunt the minister and all the members except Alexander Johnston.

William Shankland having lain under the sin & scandal of antenuptial fornication for some time and making application to the Session this day acknowledging his sin & desiring to be admitted to appear in publick and make satisfaction they after having considered the matter granted his request & ordered him to appear next Lords Day in the usual place in order to be rebuked.

John Sutherland mentioned in former minutes applied to the Session this day earnestly desiring to be admitted to appear in public and make satisfaction for his sin and scandall of uncleanness, the Session after considering the matter granted his request & ordered him to appear in the usual place next Lords Day.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 11th March 1750

John Sutherland and William Shankland appeared both in public according to last days appointment were rebuked and ordered to continue in the profession of their repentance.

Cumnock 11th March 1750

John Sutherland and William Shankland both appeared this day again in the usual place of repentance were rebuked a second time & ordered to continue in the profession of their repentance.

Cumnock 1st April 1750

John Sutherland and William Shankland appeared this day in public were rebuked a third time and ordered to continue in the profession of their repentance.

Cumnock 8th April 1750

The Session met according to intimation from the pulpit.

Sederunt Mr Reid minister in Ochiltree (Mr Thomson being necessarily absent on account of his indisposition) and all the members and after prayer.

John Sutherland who appeared this day in public & was rebuked a fourth time made application to the Session acknowledging his sin and scandal and earnestly entreating to be absolved the Session after having examined him as to the sense he had of his sin and exhorting him by their moderator to a better behaviour granted his request and ordered him to appear in public against this day fortnight in order to be rebuked and absolved.

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William Shankland made application to the Session for the same purpose, Session after having examined and exhorted they likewise appointed to appear in the usual place of repentance in order to be rebuked and absolved.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 22nd April 1750

The Session met according to intimation from the pulpit.

Sederunt Mr Coats who preached this day (the minister Mr Thomson being necessarily absent through indisposition) and all the Elders after prayer.

George Muir who was last chosen as Elder from this Session to the Presbytery represented that the usual time for his being in this office was now elapsed, he therefore desired the Session to choose another to succeed him they after deliberating a little came to a resolution & appointed George Murdoch as their Elder to the Presbytery for the ensuing half year.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 5th May 1750

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Thomson Minister and all the members.

James Howat Treasurer represented that it was now a long time since his accounts were revised & complained that the Session came to this resolution some time agoe & accordly appointed mr Thomson Minister, Alexander Johnston and Mr Watts to receive the said accounts of the poors money in his hands but they had never given in their report, the Session considering his request renewed the same resolution & appointed the persons abovementioned as formerly to receive them and to report against the next meeting.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 12th May 1750

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Thomson Minister and all the members.

Mr Thomson Minister, Alexander Johnston Elder and Alexander Watts Session Clerk having according to the sessions appointment revised & examined the Treasurers accounts of the poors money report that after all debursments to the poor since the last clearance they find there is still in his hands of gold silver good & bad copper coin the sum of four hundred and thirty eight pount fourteen shilling and three pennies Scots.

Cumnock 30th September 1750

According to intimation from the pulpit the Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Walker in Dalrymple (the minister Mr Thomson being necessarily absent through indisposition) and all the Elders.

A report having reached the Session that Robert Souter and Jean Wallace were married in a clandestine manner at Glasgow and that Jean was with child in uncleanness they being both summoned to appear before the Session this day in consequence of which upon their being called compeared own'd they were irregularly married by (blank space) a certificate of which they produced signed by himself and witnesses, they adhered to their marriage & were rebuked by the moderator for their disorderly marriage and upon Jean Wallace being asked whither or not she was with child in uncleanness she acknowledged she was and accused Robert Souter as the father of it upon this he being called owned the above charge which Jean laid against thim, they were both rebuked again and having made application to be admitted to make publick satisfaction was ordered to appear in publick on the first Sabbath of November.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 1st November 1750

According to the Session's appointment Jean Wallace appeared this day in the usual place of repentance for the first time was rebuked and ordered to continue in the profession of her repentance.

Cumnock 15th November 1750

This day Jean Wallace appeared a second time was rebuked & ordered to continue in the profession of her repentance.

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Cumnock 19th November 1750

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Reid and the members.

Jean Wallace appeared this day and was rebuked a third time for her scandal and after sermon she made application to the Session craving to be absolved and professing her repentance they after examining her as to the sense she had of her sin appointed her to appear in the usual place next day we had a sermon in order to be rebuked and absolved.

Cumnock 12th December 1750

According to the Sessions appointment last meeting Jean Wallace appeared this day was rebuked and absolved.

Cumnock 22nd March 1751

According to intimation from the pulpit the Session met and after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steele minister at Stair and all the Elders.

A report having reached the Session that James Rankine and Agnes McNaught as also Hugh Crawford and Margaret Mitchell were clandestinely married, they were summoned to appear before them this day in consequence of which they were called compeared and being interrogate each party if they were married they confess'd they were irregularly married by (blank space) signed by himself and witnesses they adhered to their marriage and were rebuked for their disorderly behaviour and dismiss'd.

In like manner a fama clamosa of Mary Caldow being with child in uncleanness she was also summon'd to appear before them this day was called compeared and being interrogate if she was with child she acknowledged she was and after being rebuked and exhorted to a sincere repentance she was desired to deal ingenuously in telling who was the father of her child upon which she charged William McClannachan in Garrlaff. The Session ordered him to be summoned to appear before them against Sabbath come a fortnight and the said Mary Caldow upon the same day.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 14th April 1751

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Auld in Mauchline and all the members.

William McLannochan and Caldow mentioned in minutes of last Session were called, Mary Caldow compeared and still adheared to her former confession of her being with child in uncleanness and still accused William McClannochan as the father of it but the said William compeared not upon which the Session ordered him to be summoned to compear before them secondo on this day fourtnight with the said Caldow.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 28th Aprile 1751

According to intimation from the pulpit the Session met and after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Coats at Dalmellington minister and all the members except James Howat.

Mary Caldow mentioned in last days minutes & William McClannochan called compeared she still adheared to her former confession and accused the said William as the father of her child upon which he was interrogate and owned he had been guilty of the sin of uncleanness with her, after being rebuked for his sin and exhorted to a sincere repentance the Session considered his request to be admitted to make his appearance in the usual place of repentance in order to be rebuked and satisfy for his sin and scandal they appointed him accordingly to appear in publick against this day fourtnight. As for Elizabeth or Mary Caldow her case being more intricate they delayed it til further consideration.

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There being no Presbytery Elder the Session unanimously choose George Murdoch to go to the presbytery for the ensuing half year.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 2nd May 1751

According to the Sessions appointment William McLannochan appeared this day in publick for the first time was rebuked and ordered to continue in the profession of his repentance.

Cumnock 2nd June 1751

The Session according to intimation from the pulpit the Session met.

Sederunt Mr George Reid minister at Ochiltree and all the members.

William McClannochan formerly mentioned made application to the Session professing his repentance and craving to be absolved they after considering his request appoint him to appear the next Lords Day there was sermon in order to be rebuked and absolved from the sin and scandal of uncleanness he having made his second appearance this day.

In consequence of the Sessions appointment, Mr Watts Session Clerk Alexander Johnstone Elder revised the Treasurer's Accounts and report that after all debursments made to the poor being allowed him they find still in his hands of gold and silver good and bad halfpennys the sum of three hundred & ninety pound three shilling and four pennys Scots. L 90 "3"4.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 23^d June 1751

The Session according to intimation from the pulpit the Session met and after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Thomas Walker minister at Dundonald and all the members.

Jean Wallace mentioned in former minutes made an application to the Session begging to be admitted to appear in publick in the usual place of repentance in order to be rebuked and absolved from the sin and scandal of uncleanness after having examined her as to the sense she had of her sin and seriously exhorted her to a sincere repentance they granted her request.

William McClannochan as he was appointed appeared this day for the third time in publick was rebuked & absolved.

Cumnock 30th June 1751

Jean Wallace according to the Sessions appointment appeared this day in publick was rebuked & absolved from the sin and scandal of uncleanness.

Cumnock 7th July 1751

The session as was intimated from the pulpit.

Sederunt Mr Reid Minister in Saint Quivox and all the members and after prayer.

A fama clamosa of Janet Wight her being with child in uncleanness having reached the Session they ordered their officer to summon her to compear before them this day, in consequence of which she was called and compeared and after being exhorted to be ingenuous in her confession she was interrogate whither or not she was with child but she denied upon which the Session as the report was so flagrant and the appearance of her being guilty do manifest sent for three women of skill in order to examine her and to report viz: Jannet Hanna, Sara Aird and Isobell More having done report that according to the best judgement they can form they are all of opinion she is with child and pretty far advanced in her pregnancy but Janet Wight being called again & interrogate still denied she was. Summoned apud acta to appear before them next day there was sermon.

And on a report that Janet Sampson and Margaret Thomson their being with child the Session ordered their officer to summon them to compear before them also.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 21st July 1751

According to intimation from the pulpit the Session met and after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Mitchell Minister at Muirkirk, Alexander Johnston, John Vallance, Andrew Wilson Elders.

Jannet Wight mentioned in minutes of last Session was called compeared and being again interrogate own'd she had been guilty of the sin of uncleanness

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with one James Barr in Catrine.

Janet Sampson likewise called compeared and being interrogate acknowledged herself with child to William Crichton Merchant in Cumnock, upon which the Session ordered their officer to summond him the said William Crichton to compear before them against this day fourtnight.

Ann Thomson called but did not compear.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 14th September 1751

Session met and after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Shaw Minister at Coylton and all the Elders.

Janet Sampson called compeared who still adheared to her former confession and accused William Crichton as the father of her child upon which William was called compeared but upon his being interrogate denied his guilt. The session summoned them apud acta to compear before them next day we had sermon which is this day fourtnight.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 28th September 1751

Session met and after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Hunter Minister of New Cumnock and the members.

Janet Sampson called in consequence of which she compeared and being interrogate adhered both to her former confession and to the accusation she charged William Crighton with whereupon he was again called compeared but still denied the guilt upon which they were both cited apud actum to appear before them this day fourtnight and at the same since the session gave orders for James

Barr mentioned in former minutes to be summoned to appear before them on the forementioned day.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 13th October 1751

According to intimation from the pulpit Session met and after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Ballantine Minister at Craigy and all the elders.

Janet Sampson called compeared and still accused William Crichton but upon his being called in and interrogate he still denied the charge she the said Janet laid against him upon which the Session agreed to lay the matter before the Presbytery for their advice & direction and summon'd the said William to compear before it against the second Wednesday of November at Air.

Janet Weight and James Barr called compeared and she being interrogate still acknowledged her guilt and accused the said James Barr but he being asked denied the charge upon which the Session summon'd him apud acta to compear before them this day fourtnight.

John Templeton in Pennyfadzeoch Miln was chosen for their Elder to the presbytery the next ensuing half year.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 16th February 1752

Session met after sermon and after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Cunningham Minister at Symington and all the Elders.

The Treasurer James Howat having represented that it was now a considerable time since the accounts of the poors money were revised and requested the Session to examine them, they considering his desire appointed Mr Watts Clerk and Mr Johnston Elder to revise the said accounts and report.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 29th March 1752

Session met before sermon and after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Andrew Mitchell minister of Muirkirk and all the Elders.

John Thomson and Agnes McKinlay upon a report of their being clandestinely married were summoned to appear before them in consequence of which they were call'd compeared and after they were interrogate as to their irregular marriage they owned they were, a certificate of which they produced signed by Mr (blank space) and witnesses, the publicly adhered to their marriage were rebuked and dismissed.

Concluded with prayer.

Added by Yvonne Saunderson

Cumnock 29th March 1752

Session met after sermon and after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Andrew Mitchell minister of Muirkirk and all the Elders.

Nans Cochrane came into the Session and acknowledged she had been guilty of the

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sin of fornication for which she made profession of her sorrow and begg'd to be admitted to make publick satisfaction, the moderator after having exhorted her to be sincere in her repentance asked her with whom she had been guilty and desired her to be ingenuous in this matter upon which she accused Hugh Gilmore. Immediately the said Hugh Gilmore came in and owned the guilt for which he was rebuked and exhorted to repent. The Session considered the said Nans's request about her appearance in publick in order to be rebuked & appointed her to appear in the usual place on the 19th Day of Aprile.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 5th Aprile 1752

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Auld minister, Alexander Johnstone, Andrew Hodge, James Howat Elders.

A fama clamosa having spread that Marion Rankine who was suspected of being with child in fornication had been guilty of the death of the child and that Nan Brown had seen a young child which had been buried in a yearld dug up by a dog. The Session sent for the said Nans and after she came & was interrogate as to what she saw in the yearld she replied that she saw something that she did not like well but could not say it was a child only that it was something peculiar to woman after delivery and being asked if she thought Marion was once with child but was not now she said she thought her more bulky than usual a while ago but that she was not so now and being asked again if any besides herself saw what she did not like well in the yearld, answered that she cried to James French's wife at the other side of the hedge to come and see it but she did not come so she went away herself and returned to the yearld some time soon afterwards but that which she saw before was gone so she knew no more about it. The Session upon considering this affair and the flagrancy of the report ordered three women viz Isobell More, Marion Campbell, Sara Aird to be called and examine the said Marion and to report to the next meeting and at the same time empowered each member to make what enquiry might be proper for finding the truth of this matter.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 19th Aprile 1752

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Hunter minister in Ayr and all the members.

Janet Johnstone and James Smith came in before the Session and she the said Janet owned herself to be with child in uncleanness to the said James which guilt James acknowledged. They professed their repentance, were rebuked and ordered to appear in publick the next day there was a sermon here.

According to appointment of 29 March last Agnes Cochrane appeared this day in publick was rebuked and ordered to continue in the profession of her repentance.

Mr Alexander Watts Clerk and Alexander Johnstone Elder reported that according to the Sessions appointment they revised the Treasurers accounts and found after all debursments to the poor since last clearing are counted for and allowed and after twenty six pound sterling money is by the appointment of the Session lent to James Campbell of Light Shaw to him there remains still in his hands of money good and bad half pence and tenners* the sum of six pounds Scots £6.

**tenners – possibly a variant of tanners - sixpences*

Alexander Johnstone was chosen Elder for the Presbytery for the ensuing half year.

With regard to the affair about Marion Rankine mentioned in former minutes three members of the Session in consequence of an appointment in former sederunt called Isobell More midwife, Marion Campbell Sara Aird all three women of reputed skill to examine the Marrion Rankine whither she

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according to their judgment appeared lately delivered of a child and to report to the Session upon oath. This day they came before the Session and Isobel Mire first depones that according to the best of her judgment she was of opinion that that Marion was once with child a little before this time and the she now appeared to be a green woman & having the symptoms of women lately delivered and that she herself had told the said Marion that she was with child but had now lost it & she said nothing. Signed Isobel Moore

Sara Aird depones that according to the best of her judgement when she examined the said Marion along with the other two she had all the usual signs of a woman lately delivered of a child. Signed S.A.

Marrion Campbell depones also that according to the best of her judgement she had the usual signs of a woman lately delivered. (signed) Ma. Campbell.

The Session deliberating upon the depositions of the above women and thinking there was some presumptions of the said Marion's guilt judged it proper to summon several of the persons who had most frequent opportunities of being with her namely John Thomson, Nans McKindlay, William Harbert, Thomas McMillan, Nans Brown, Elizabeth Duncan, Nans Wills in order to examine them as to what they know about Marrion's being with child or if any of them had seen anything like a dead child being buries anywhere and accordingly ordered the officer to summond the above named persons to compear next Lord's Day there was sermon.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock May 1752

According to intimation from the pulpit Session met and after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Thomas Hunter Minister in New Cumnock and all the members.

James Smith and Janet Johnstone who appeared this day in publick according to last days appointment made application to the Session professing their repentance & begging to be admitted to appear in the usual place of repentance next Lord's Day we had sermon & to be absolved, the Session considering that their being married was now some mitigation of their guilt granted their request.

Nans Cochrane who likewise was rebuked before the Congregation this day made application to the Session craving to be absolved, after examining her as to the sense she had of her sin and exhorted her to a sincere repentance they appointed her to appear in the usual publick place in order to be rebuked and absolved.

Janet Wight mentioned in former minutes came into the Session this day and begg'd to have her child baptised but as she was still under the scandal of fornication and James Barr whom she accused as the father of her child denies the guilt the Session referr'd the matter to farther consideration.

The persons who were ordered last day to be summoned before the Session were called compeared, first John Thomson was interrogate as to what he knew of Marrion Rankine being with child & declared he knew nothing but only that it was the common report of the town she was with child.

Agnes McKindly called compeared was interrogate, depons that she does not know whither the said Marrion was with child but only to appearance she appeared to be more bulky that a woman that is not with child.

Thomas McMillan declared he knew nothing with relation to Marrions being with child.

Nans Brown depons she knew nothing farther about Marrions being with child that that she looked biggar that women usually are when not with child.

William Harbert depones he knows nothing farther than that Marrion appeared biggar than usual.

Elizabeth Duncan depones she thought Marrion biggar than usual

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Cumnock 31st August 1752

Mr Shaw in Coylton minister and all the members present.

The Session met before noon.

Hugh Gilmore having formerly acknowledged his sin and scandal of fornication with (blank space) Cochrane came this day before the Session & desired he might be admitted to make publick

repentance, the Session having considered his request appointed him to appear in publick this day which was accordingly done & exhorted to continue his appearances.

Cumnock 17th September 1752

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister of Stair, all the members present.

Hugh Gilmore appeared this day in publick & was rebuked for a second time and ordered to wait upon the session.

The Session having got information that John Mitchell in Jamaica had left in Legacie to the poor of the parish of Old Cumnock fifty pound sterling money did immediately advise with Lord Dumfries and Mr William Logan Clerk at Cumnock who gave it as their opinion that a Session should be called & constitute in order to sign a discharge of the same by the minister & all the members of the Session which was accordingly done this day before the said Mr Logan writer* and Thomas Vallance merchant and ordered to remit the said discharge to a Trustee at London for the recoverie of the above fifty pounds sterling.

**writer – lawyer/solicitor*

Cumnock 24th September 1752

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Hunter Minister at Ayr, all the members present.

Hugh Gilmore being exhorted to an honest & sincere repentance appeared this day in publick for a third time was by appointment of the Session absolved.

Cumnock 26th November 1752

The Session appointed Alexander Johnstone & Andrew Hodge to revise the Treasurers accounts & report.

Cumnock 13th December 1752

Andrew Hodge and Alexander Johnstone did according to the Sessions appointment revise the Treasurers accounts and find in his hands after allowing the debursments to the poor preceeding this date twenty four pounds eight shillings and four pennies Scots money.

Cumnock 14th December 1752

The which day the Session met as follows Mr George Muir ordained as minister there the 30th November last with all the Elders together with the Right Honorable Earl of Dumfries, Mr Douglass of Garrallan & Mr Logan of Logan, Heritors and after prayer.

They took the funds and state of the poor under consideration and in order to the proper settling these matters found it necessary that the bygone annual rents due to the poor be immediately called in. This the Treasurer is appointed to do & report and also found it necessary that the Elders make up a proper list of the poor in their respective bounds with their different circumstances to be likewise reported at next meeting after these things are done.

The Session unanimously made choice of the Right Honorable The Earl of Dumfries to be ordained an Elder for this parish and appoint the Edict to be served from the the pulpit next Lords Day in order to his admission on Tewsday the ninth of January next.

They reelected Alexander Johnstone to the presbytery Elder for the currant half year and concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 24th December 1752

The Session met after prayer, the minister and all the Elders present.

Janet Wight being summoned to this days dyet was called compeared and being exhorted to deal honestly as to the father of her child

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She has in uncleanness she adheared to her former accusation of James Barr in Catrine as in former minutes. The Session thought proper that the minister should advise the presbyterie especially since the said James barr had obtained leave to clear himself of the charge by oath before the civel magistrate.

This day was the day for the colection appointed by the Generall Assembly in this place for the suffering protestants in North America when there was collected five pounds five shillings Sterling which was by the appointment of the Session lodged in the hands of Alexander Johnstone to remit to the Presbytery of Ayr.

George Muir Moderator.

Cumnock 7th January 1753

The Session met and after prayer.

The Minister and all the Elders present.

The Minister reported that after laying the case of Janet Wight before the Presbytery according to last minute they advised that she should be taken on the profession of her repentance and absolved how soon the Session shall judge proper in order to the baptism of her child but with this provision that if it shall appear at any time hereafter that she has acted a disingenuous part with regard to the father of the child she shall be liable to sensure as if never absolved.

The presbytery gave it particularly as their opinion that since an oath for confirmation is to be as an end to all strife on rebuking her James Barr is not to be mentioned as the supposed father of her child notwithstanding her adhearance to her former accusation of him. Upon this report the said

Janet Wight being called compeared and after the minister had dealt with her conscience in the most solemn manner to be ingenuous as to the real father of her child she still persisted in her accusation of James Barr wherefore the Session willing to follow the advice of the presbytery in that matter appointed her to appear in usual place next Lord's Day to be rebuked before the Congregation for her own sin & to continue the profession of her repentance until they see cause to absolve her.

The minister in like manner reported that he had delivered the five guineas collected for north America as in last minute to the presbytery & produced their clerks record of it accordingly.

Concluded with prayer. George Muir Moderator.

Cumnock 9th January 1753

The Session met and after prayer.

The Minister and all the Elders.

They ordered their officer to call at the most potent foor of the church three several times to see if any person or persons had any objection why the Right Honorable The Earl of Dumfries might not be ordained an Elder in this parish according to their resolutions of the 14th December last and the intimation made from the pulpit the Sabbath following.

The officer returning his execution that no objections were offered the Session proceeded to ordain the said Earl of Dumfries, when the minister preached the congregation being assembled from Tim: 5.17. "Let the Elders that rule well accounted worthy of double honour" and after sermon took the said Earl publicly engaged to the faithfull performance of the several duties of that important office and then sett him apart to it by prayer. Upon the dismissing of the congregation the Session received the said Earl of Dumfries into their number and accordingly gave him the right hand of fellowship when he in their presence subscribed the Westminster confession & formula of this church.

The Session concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 10th January 1753

Jean Park servitor to William Johnstone in Mains came before Andrew Hodge, Alexander Johnstone

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and James Howat Elders not having any constitute Session she informed them she was with child in uncleanness & accused Robert Johnstone in Mains as the father of the child.

Cumnock 15th January 1753

The Session met after prayer before noon the Minister and all the Elders present.

Robert Johnstone in Mains came before the Session and being informed that Jean Park being with child in uncleanness & had accused him as the father he immediately owned the charge to be just and desired that the Session would allow him to make profession of hid repentance before the congregation. The Session considering his petition appointed him to appear in publick next Lord's Day and be rebuked for the first time.

George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock February 11th 1753

The Session met after prayer before noon the Minister and all the Elders present.

Jean Park late in Main of Borland being called to this dyet compeared and owned herself with child in uncleanness and being exhorted to deal honestly in her accusation she gave Robert Johnstone in Mains as the father of her child. The Session considering she lived at great distance ordered her to appear that day in publick & be rebuked for a first time which was done.

The Session concluded with prayer.

Eodem Die post: mer

James Smith and Janet Johnstone spouses were both summoned to this dyet were called compeared & being interrogate as to an report made to the Session of the disorderly life & unchristian behaviour towards each other they acknowledge their fault & promise a better behaviour in time to come, the minister there after exhorting them to a sincere repentance & a Christian behaviour. Dismissed for this time.

Eodem die an account having come from the Session of New Cumnock that Janet Wight had made publick repentance in that parish three several Lords Days for the sin of fornication & was absolved our Session summond her to this dyet and ordered her to appear in publick this day to be rebuked for her sin of fornication for a fourth time, being to her a relapse which she did.

The Session concluded with prayer.

Cumnock February 18th 1753

The Session met and after prayer.

Compeared Jean Park and desired as she lived at some distance and the roads were extreemly bad which rendered it vastly inconvenient for her to travel especially being so bigg with child that they would allow her to appear in the place of repentance for second and third time before and after not that day and that they would thereupon absolve her from the scandal before mentioned which the Session having considered and she having given some satisfaction as to her views of the sin thro' the Lord Jesus Christ they granted providing expressly that this be no rule in time coming and accordingly she was rebuked and absolved.

The Session concluded with prayer. George Muir Moderator.

Cumnock February 21st 1753

The Session met and after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders & Mr Douglass of Gralland.

Conforme to intimation from the pulpit last Lords Day when they read and considered the list of poor given in with their differants circumstances and fiall* on the particular weekly or quarterly allowance necessary to each whither as an entire maintainance or only as an assistance which list is to be kept in relentis subscribed by the

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Moderator and Clerk.

They likewise determined that upon their receiving such maintainance or assistance they were not to be allowed to beg without ipso facto* losing such weekly or quarterly supply and they determined that as to all of them who were wholly maintained or should be a burden on the Session for life should on receipt of their first allowance subscribe an assignation of all that shall belong to them at death in favour of the Session for behoof of the poor but in regard that the interest of the Sessions mortified money together with the half of their weekly colactions will not near answer the demand according to the forsaid subscribed list they were of opinion that an assessment upon the parish was necessary before the whole of this scheme could pass into execution – and found that in order to this there should be a meeting of the whole Heritors as soon as possible – mean time agreed that the Session should take all care of the poor howfar their interests and collection money will goe – and that upon their giving the first supply to any wholly maintained or perpetual burdens they take their assignation as aforsaid.

The Session unanimously made choice of Mr Thomas Irvine present schoolmaster in this parish as their Clerk and appointed all their records to be delivered up to him.

Session concluded with prayer. George Muir Moderator.

**fiall - wages or payment*

**ipso facto – by that act or fact*

There are a couple of entries here, dated from 1724 which were omitted in error from P.58. These entries have been transcribed into the correct place in p.58.

The new Clerk, schoolmaster Thomas Irvine takes over from this point.

Cumnock 25th February 1753

The Session met before Sermon, after prayer.

Sederunt The Moderator, Alexander Johnstone, John Templetoun & James Howat, members.

Jannet Wight formerly mentioned professing her repentance, and earnestly desiring to be purged from her sin & scandal, after reasons of her desire were examined into, the Session granted her request in order to the baptism of her child and ordered her to appear in the usual place of repentance in the forenoon to be rebuked & absolved.

Robert Johnstone formerly mentioned made application to the Session professing his repentance and craving to be absolved. They appointed him for that end to make his appearance in the usual place of repentance in the afternoon.

Concluded with prayer.

According to the Session's appointment in the morning Jannet Wight appeared in the forenoon was rebuked & absolved. But with the provision that if it should at any time appear hereafter that she has acted a disingenuous part with regard to the father of the child she shall be liable to censure as if never absolved.

In consequence of the Session's appointment compeared Robert Johnstone in the afternoon for the third time was rebuked & absolved.

Certificate date 18th March 1753, granted Jean Park for nine years immediately preceeding Martinmass 1752 years. George Muir. Moderator.

Cumnock 25th February 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sed: The Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge and James Howat, members.

Compeared Elizabeth Caldow having been cited to this dyet and being dealt with to be Ingenuous as the father of

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her child as mentioned in minutes several years ago, she continued to accuse Robert Souter in Cumnock upon which she was summoned apud acta, and he appointed to be cited next Lord's Day.

Compeared Alan Aiken and desired that proper steps might be taken towards his absolution from the scandal alledged against him by Jean Nickol as in minutes some years ago. He being interrogate still deny'd his being the father of the child, but judicially acknowledged the circumstance in his brother's declaration in the year 1748. The Session cited him apud acta, and appointed her to be summonsd Sabbath next.

The Session being informed that Jannet Wight a young healthy woman will not work but habitually begs, which they judge unworthy the Christian name, appoint her to be cited against next Sabbath in order to deal with her upon that head.

The appointed the Moderator, Alexander Johnstone, John Templeton & the Clerk to revise the Treasurer's accompts on 26th instant and to attest the same in their name.

Concluded with prayer. George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 25th March 1753

Sederunt as before with John Vallance.

Robert Souter and Elizabeth Caldow being called compeared and he being exhorted to ingenuity & interrogate positively adhered to his former denial, and they being both brought face to face, she continued to accuse and he to deny as before, upon which they were cited apud acta to appear before the Presbytery at Ayr next Wednesday.

Allan Aiken and Jean Nickol called compeared she being alone adhered to her former accusation. They being brought face to face still adhered, he to his denyall ahe to her accusation, but as she insisted upon having his brother's oath as to some circumstances she nmentioned the Session desired the Moderator to speak to the Ministers of Ayr to cause cite him here this day fortnight and they summoned both parties apud acta to appear that day.

Jannet Wight being called compeared not, and was appointed to be cited for a second time the next Sabbath.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 1st April 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt all the members except Andrew Wilson.

Jannet Wight called compeared, and she she acknowledged that she was in use to beg since Belton last notwithstanding her youth and health, she was rebuked for it, and being exhorted, promised that except in case of extreme neccesity, she would not do it again.

The Minister reported as to Robert Souter and Elizabeth Caldow that the Presbytery advised the Session to give him a Copy of the Oath to consider, and for that end appointed them both to be cited the next Lord's Day.

The Committee appointed to revise the Treasurer's accounts report that after ballancing the debt and credit from the 31st of December to the 26th March both last, there was a ballance of £215 sh87 D10 Scots of which £5 "7 "9 bad money in the Treasurer's hands which they attest.

Concluded with prayer. George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 8th April 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the Members.

An execution of William Aitkins citation was produced and he did not appear.

Allan Aitkin and Jean Nickol called compeared and after all that could be said they continued to accuse and deny as before upon which by the advice of the Presbytry a copy of the Oath of Purgation was given to Allan to advise for some weeks.

Robert Souter and Elizabeth Caldow being called compeared and after dealing with them to be ingenuous

They still continued to accuse and deny as before upon which by the Presbytry's advice a copy of the Oath of Purgation was given to Robert to advise for some weeks.

James Smith and his wife being summoned upon a report of continuing to behave indecently and being called compeared James, but she did not, he was asked if or not they were in use to wish curses upon one another he judicially refused to tell anything about it upon which the Session cited him apud acta and appointed her to be cited for a second time, as also appointed Joseph Cochran, Hugh Thomson and Andrew McGill as witnesses to be cited all to compear the 29th instant.

Mary Richmond compeared ultroneously and acknowledged that two years past in January, she brought forth a child in fornication and accused one John Chalmers as the father & declared that she was guilty with no other person. But in regard that the said John Chalmer left this place a little after the guilt was committed neither she nor the Session know where he is to be found. Resolved to apply to the Presbytry for advice.

Concluded with prayer. George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 6th May 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the Members.

The Minister being absent the sabbath before they could not call any of the parties before them mentioned in the last minute, and therefore appointed their officer to summon all the parties therein mentioned against next Lord's Day, except Allan Aitken and Jean Nickol, whose case they appoint the Minister to lay before the Presbytry at their next meeting at Ayr for advise for the following reasons-

1mo That though the said Allan was expressly told afore Sermon that the Session could not administer the Oath of Purgation to him (which he insisted should be given him this day) until autoriz'd by the presbytry, he came forward before the Congregation were dismissed in the forenoon and in a manner that gave Universal offence, demanded the Minister to take his Oath, alledging notwithstanding his being told the contrary before that Session had promised him at their last meeting to do it, and even after the Minister had represented the case to the Congregation, which Allan Aitkins conduct obliged him to do, particularly that the Session could not take his Oath without the Presbytrys authority as before. He the said Allan stil persisted in his demand and threw down a sixpence upon the Clerk's desk, using words to this purpose, Since you refuse me my Oath, I hereupon take instruments against you. As an evidence of the offence this behaviour gave, the Civil Magistrate, without any application from the Session thought himself bound immediately to incarcerate him.

2do: That Jean Nickol alledged that tho Allan's brother was before examined, yet if he had been interrogate upon oath he could say more with respect to some circumstances. Therefore she insisted she might be allowed the benefit of his deposition.

The Session appoint Mr **Lewis** Excise officer and his family to get a testimonial for four years preceeding January last to the first of March also last.

They likewise appointed a testimonial to be given to Hugh Wallace & his wife for two years preceeding March 1752.

Concluded with prayer. George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 10th May 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, John Templeton, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch and James Howat Members and chose Andrew Wilson to attend the presbytry for the ensuing half year.

Concluded with prayer.

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NB – The Session are informed that Mary Richmond mentioned in the minutes of April 8th is since dead.

George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 13th May 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, John Templeton, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, James Howat & John Vallance Members.

Compeared Robert Souter & Elizabeth Caldow when he declared upon considering the Oath of Purgation that he had all freedom to take it and desired it might be given him, which declaration the Session appoint the Minister to lay before the Presbytry for their advice and authority to administer it.

Compeared likewise James Smith & Jannet Johnston and both of them insisted that the witnesses should be examined as the matter of their scandalous behaviour.

Hugh Thomson called compeared and both parties declaring their willingness that he and the other two following witnesses should not be examined upon Oath he gave his declaration as following –

Hugh Thomson, aged above thirty declares that he oftentimes has seen them in such a passion at one another, that he could not judge who was in the wrong, particularly that on Thursday was eight days and sometimes before that he had heard the said Jannet Johnston in both her house & his curse her husband in these words “God curse you” and that he heard James Smith one day in the Declarants house curse her in words to the same purpose but declares he cannot remember the precise words distinctly. Being further interrogate declared that he saw both of them beat each other with their fists in his the declarants house and that he had likewise seen her grip at the tongs as he believes with a design to strike her husband but that her husband wrested them out of her hand and moreover that he had seen James Smith offering to beat her when he the declarant interposed and prevented it. Signed Hugh Thomson.

Andrew McGill called compeared aged above twenty. Declared that some time ago he saw jannet Johnstone standing at Hugh Thomson's door when her husband was in that house and heard her curse him in these words, "God's heavy curse light on you". Being interrogate if it was her husband he declared he could not be positive on that he had no reason to think he was cursing any other body. Being interrogate declares he never heard him curse her. Signed Andrew McGill.

Joseph Cochran called compeared. Declared that on Martinmass Thursday night last he heard Jannet Johnstone in Hugh Thomson's house where he fancies James Smith likewise was, curse her husband in these words, "God curse you whiclke sun and moon endures" and at the same time and place heard her say "God curse him through all the ages of Eternity" and being interrogate declared that he was fully persuaded it was her husband she meant. Declared he never heard him curse her and that he never see't them fight. Signed Joseph Cochran.

James Smith being interrogate himself acknowledges that he did curse his wife as in Hugh Thomson's declaration.

Jannet Johnstone being interrogate she declared that he had sometimes in her passion said "God damn him" very her husband.

The Session having heard and considered the declarations of Witnesses and acknowledgements of parties find it proven that the have cursed one another and did rebuke and exhort them, leaving the consideration of what further censure shall be necessary till next meeting.

Concluded with prayer. George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 17th May 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except John Vallance.

They resolve with respect to James Smith and Jannet Johnstone that they should be rebuked before the Session next Lords Day in the morning with certification that

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if the continued in such behaviour afterwards they would not only proceed to higher censure but apply to the civil magistrate the he interpose his authority as to him shall seem meet and they appointed the minister to intimate this sentence to the Congregation in forenoon next Lord's Day. Mean time order their officer to cite the parties at the time and for the purposes before mentioned.

Concluded with prayer. George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 20th May 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the Members.

James Smith and Jannet Johnstone were called compeared and rebuked in terms of the last minute.

The Session appointed John Logan to get a certificate for most of his life in this place and William Johnstone a Testificate in order to marriage.

Concluded with prayer.

Eodem die the Minister made intimation to the Congregation of the sentence respecting James Smith and his wife in terms of the Session's appointment.

George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock June 24th 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the Members except Alexander Johnston.

Compeared ultroneously Margaret Weir in Lesmahagow and adhered to her acknowledgement as in minute 10 October 1741 and following ones she brought forth a child in fornication and continued to accuse William Howatson in Wanlockhead as the father for which she made a profession of her sorrow and begged to be admitted to make publick satisfaction. The Session having considered her request, appointed her to appear in the usual place of repentance in order to be rebuked the next Lord's Day and at the same time appointed their Clerk to write to the minister of Sanqhair that he might take the said William Howatson under their discipline.

The Session also appointed Wallacetoun's Bond to be given to Mr William Logan, writer that proper diligence might be used on the same.

Concluded with prayer. George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 1st July 1753

Margaret Weir mentioned in the former minute appeared this day in publick, was rebuked for the first time & ordered to continue in the profession of her repentance.

John Wood late in Crawfordjohn produced a certificate for two years preceeding Martinmass last.
GM

Cumnock 15th July 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except John Vallance and James Howat.

Margaret Weir compeared and desired that as there was no Sermon last Lord's Day in order to her being rebuked a second time, she might be rebuked twice this day and absolved her reasons being judged sufficient, the Session granted her request.

She was accordingly rebuked twice and absolved in the afternoon with this provision that as William Howatson has not as yet purged himself by Oath and as the truth of her accusation is uncertain to us, in case the contrary shall afterwards appear she shall be held as not absolved.

Compeared ultroneously Margaret Muir in Crosclair and judiciously acknowledges herself with child as she thinks from the first of March last and accuses George Muir likewise in Crosclair as the father, after reproving & exhorting her the Session ordered their Officer to cite him against this day fortnight when she was cited apud acta to appear.

She produced a certificate from the parish of Culton attesting her innoensive walk preceeding Whitsunday forty six.

Concluded with prayer. George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 9th July 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members.

Compeared Margaret and George Muirs according to last minute when the said George

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judicially acknowledged the truth of her accusation and agreed as to the time she condescended upon, upon which they were reprov'd and exhort'd.

Concluded with prayer. George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 5th August 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Ut Supra.

The Minister reported that in the case of Robert Souter and Elizabeth Caldow the presbytry advised & authorised the Session to administer the Oath of Purgation to him and with respect to Allan Aikin & Jean Nickol the presbytry advised to examine William aikin upon Oath and for that purpose ordered their officer to cite him to compear before this Session next Lord's Day.

The Session ordere their officer to summond Robert Souter & Elizabeth Caldow, Allan Aiken and Jean Nickol next Lord's Day.

The Session appoint John Allan & Jean Blair his wife a certificate for three years immediately preceeding Whitsunday.

Concluded with prayer. George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 12th August 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the embers.

An execution of William Aiken's summons was produced and he being called did not compear. The session desired the Minister to write to Ayr to get him cited for a third time against this day fortnight when they appointed their officer to cite Allan Aiken and Jean Nickol.

Robert Sowter and Elizabeth Caldow called compeared. Robert was asked if he insisted to vindicate himself by Oath and declared that he did, whereupon the Session summond him and Elizabeth Caldow for her interest to compear in the presence of the Congregation next Lord's Day's forenoon for that purpose leaving it to the Minister to delay the administration of the Oath at that time or not as he judges proper.

The Session appoint the Treasurer to pay fifteen shillings sterling to the Prebytry Clerk as three years salary preceeding March last.

N.B. Robert Sowter and Elizabeth Caldow were called and compeared before the Congregation as appointed in last minute when after Exhortation and prayer they were interrogate & accused and deny'd as before, upon which the minister delayed giving him the Oath till that day fortnight that the person guilty might have another opportunity of considering it, and were cited to the next dyet. George Muir Moderator.

Cumnock 9th September 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except George Murdoch and Andrew Wilson.

The Moderator produced an execution of William Aikens being cited for the third time but as he did not compear the Session remitted it to the next meeting of Presbytry.

Elizabeth Caldow was called last Lord's Day and compeared but as Robert Sowter did not compear the Session delay that affair till afterwards.

Concluded with prayer. George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 16th September 1753

N.B. Robert Sowter and Elizabeth Caldow compeared before the congregation when after exhortation to them and prayer, they were severally interrogate and she adhering to her accusation, and he to his denial, the Oath of Purgation as appointed by Acts of Assembly was administered to him which he swore, and upon which he was absolved. George Muir Moderator.

Cumnock 23rd September 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except Andrew Wilson, George Murdoch

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and John Vallance.

William Crichton and Jannet Sampson compeared ultroneously and after dealing with them to be ingenuous as to the child mentioned in former minutes, she continued to accuse and he to deny as before, she declared she had no presumptions for fixing the guilt upon him that she could prove, they were cited apud acta to compear before the Session the next Lord's Day.

Concluded with prayer. George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 30th September 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except George Murdoch, Andrew Wilson and John Vallance.

Compeared William Crichton and Jannet Sampson when she continued to accuse and he to deny as before, they were both cited apud acta against the next Lord's Day.

N.B. This day was produced a receipt from the Presbytery Clerk of Ayr of fifteen shillings Sterling as compleat payment of three years salary preceeding March last from the Session of Cumnock.

Concluded with prayer. George Muir Moderator.

Cumnock 7th October 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except John Vallance.

Compeared William Crichton and Jannet Sampson when they acted judicially as before: But William Crichton offering certain circumstances toward his execution by John Good, Bessy Thomson, Robert Good, Alexander Good, Hugh Brown younger, James McGill, Sarah Wallace. The Session allowed him to do so and accordingly summoned the parties apud acta, and appointed their officer to cite the witnesses to compear before the Session in the Manse tomorrow at three o'clock in the afternoon.

Concluded with prayer. George Muir, moderator.

Cumnock 8th October 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, John Templeton, Andrew Hodge and James Howat, members.

William Crichton and Jannet Sampson who adhered as before, and he insisting to have his exculpatory* proof led.

**evidence tending to show innocence.*

John Good wigmaker in Cumnock was called aged about fifty five, sworn purged of partial counsel interrogate depones that about candlemass whether 1751 or 1752 he cannot say, a soldier whose name and designation he does not know came to his house asking for Jannet Sampson who had come into the deponent's house a little before, when the soldier said to her "Are you there you

Damned whore, are you going to return my shilling which I gave you by agreement to lie with you twelve times, and want five." Being interrogate if Jannet Sampson contradicted him, he depones she did not, only that she said, if he would wait till Andrew Mitchell was up, she would return him his shilling, Being interrogate how long after that it was till she brought forth the child, depones that to the best of his knowledge , it was about nine months or thereby and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. (signed) Jo Good G Muir, Moderator.

Bessy Thomson spouse to the said John Good, aged about fifty four sworn, purged of partial counsel and interrogate depones in every thing ut supra, which is the truth as she shall answer to God, depones she cannot write. Signed George Muir, Moderator.

Sarah Wallace spouse to James McGill in Cumnock, aged about fifty eight, sworn, purged of partial counsel depones that at Candlemass what

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year she knows not, only that it was nine months before Jannet Sampson brought forth the child, a soldier whom they used to call Crubb, of Captain Hamilton's company came into her home and told the story of his agreement with Jannet Sampson in the precise terms represented in the above depositions, but depones Jannet Sampson herself was not present which is the truth as she shall answer to God, and depones she cannot write. (signed) G Muir Moderator.

Alexander Good son to the said John Good, aged about eighteen unmarried sworn, purged of partial counsel and interrogate. Depones that he was present when the soldier came into his father's house, that he heard him call for Jannet Sampson (who was present) and accuse her according to the above depositions, that she did not contradict him, but promised to return the shilling as before, and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. (Signed) Alexander Good, George Muir Moderator.

The Session refer giving judgement in this affair till Sabbath next when the parties were summoned to appear.

Concluded with prayer. G Muir Moderator.

Cumnock 14th October 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members.

When after dealing with the parties mentioned in last minute, they delayed giving judgement upon the foregoing proof, for the following reason, that a former constitute meeting where all the members were present except Andrew Wilson, but which minute was not recorded, the said William Crichton upon hearing certain circumstances concerning the alleged guilt mentioned by Janet Sampson and being dealt with to an ingenuous confession, he said that if he had ever been guilty with her, it was when drunk and did not remember it, therefore the Session were unanimously of opinion that they should continue to deal with him if possible to bring him to a confession of guilt.

They being both called compeared, and upon reminding him of what he said as above, he positively deny'd it when they were both cited to compear next Lord's Day.

This day the collection for Eyemouth Harbour conform to Act of Assembly was made which amounted to eighteen pound Scots, which was given in to the Presbytry.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 21st October 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members.

Compeared William Crichton and Jannet Sampson when after dealing with them in the most solemn manner, she continued to accuse and he to deny as before the Session asked him what he meant by saying as in former minute, "That if her was guilty, it was when drunk, and id not remember it", he said that he never was so drunk but he knew what he was doing. The Session cited both parties apud acta to compear next Lord's Day.

William Gemmell, taylor in Glaisnock produced testimonials from the parish of New Cumnock and Sorn, which were approved and returned.

Concluded with prayer.

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Cumnock 4th November 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the Members except Andrew Wilson.

Compreared ultronerously Elizabeth Caldow and desired she might be taken on the profession of her repentance which after exhorting her the Session agreed to, and appointed her to make her appearance next Lord's Day.

William Crichton and Jannet Sampson called, compeared, being interrogate accused and denied as before.

The Session having considered the whole of this process particularly the exculpatory proof led at the instance of William Crichton whereby they find Jannet Sampson was accused by a soldier of having bargained with him to lye with him twelve times for a shilling which she not only did not contradict but because he alleged she had failed in her promise five times and therefore demanded back his shilling, she promised to return it next day and moreover that the child with which she accused William Crichton was born about nine months thereafter. In respect whereof and of her general character with the advice of several ministers of the Presbytery the Session did and herby do in the name of the Lord Jesus the head and King of his Church **absolve** the Said William Crichton of the said scandal and declare him as capable of Church priviledges as if no such process had been commenced or carried on against him, allowing him an extract of his absolution if required.

Elizabeth Duncan in Mains produced Testimonials from the parish of Sorn for most of her life to the present.

Concluded with prayer. George Muir Moderator.

Cumnock 5th November 1753

Elizabeth Caldow this day appeared in publick and was rebuked for the first time.

Cumnock 18th November 1753

Elizabeth Caldow this day appeared again in publick & was rebuked for the second time.

Cumnock 4th November 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and Alexander Johnston, John templeton, Andrew Johnston, George Murdoch and James Howat, Members.

Elizabeth Caldow this day appeared in publick for the third time, was rebuked & ordered to wait upon the Session after sermon, in consequence of which she attended and being examined as to the sense of her sin, was ordered to go on in the profession of her repentance.

Concluded with prayer. G Muir. Moderator.

Cumnock 27th November 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator. Alexander Johnston, Andrew Hodge, John templeton & James Howat, Members.

Compeared ultroneously John Hamilton in Little Muir who declared that about twenty years ago he was excommunicated by the Presbytery of Lanerk for non-compearance in a process of adultery pursued at the instance of Jean Tod in Lanerk against him. He professed sorrow for contempt of authority and begged that as he through infirmity was unable to go

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to Lanerk himself the Session would apply to that Presbytry for their authority to repone* him, but being asked if he acknowledged the crime of adultery then & there laid to his charge he judicially declared that he was guilty of adultery with the said Jean Tod and that he was willing to undergo what censure the Session of Lanerk or their superiors should see meet to inflict upon him. The Session taking this into consideration and being satisfied that neither his strength nor his circumstances would allow him to go to Lanerk they appoint the Moderator to write to that Presbytery laying an extract of this minute before them and to report.

**repone – to restore rights/return to a former position*

Concluded with prayer. George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 2nd December 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt ut supra.

The Moderator produced the presbytery Clerk's receipt of the thirty shillings collected for Eyemouth Harbour and reported with respect to William Aiken that the Presbytery appointed their Clerk to apply to the Civil Magistrate for his authority to order the said William Aiken to compear before **them** this day se'n night as a witness in the process at the instance of Jean Nichol against Allan Aiken as in former minutes, wherefore the Session appointed their officer to summond the parties to hear and see this witness examined.

This day Elizabeth Caldow appeared in publick for the fourth time was rebuked & ordered to go on the profession of her repentance.

The Session appoint the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, Andrew Hodge & John Templeton, and the Clerk to revise the Treasurer's accompts the 7th instant and to attest the same in their name.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir Moderator.

Cumnock 9th December 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, John Templeton, Andrew Hodge, John Vallance & James Howat, Members.

Elizabeth Caldow being rebuked this day for the fifth time the Session agreed that she should be rebuked & absolved the next Lord's Day, with this provision that as Robert Souter vindicate himself by oath in case it shall afterwards appear that she has been disingenuous, she shall be held as not absolved from that particular scandal, William McClennochan having taken with her second child and been absolved as in former minutes.

Compeared Allan Aiken and Jean Nickol and being interrogate & exhorted she accused and he deny'd as before but William Aiken nor compearing and Jean Nickol still insisting for his oath the Session agreed to write to the Session of Ayr that they may examine him upon oath and Wednesday se'ennight and acquainted the parties of it that they might be present if they chused*.

**chused – chose/choosed*

The committee appointed to revise the Treasurer's accompts report that from the 26th March last to the 7th instant, after deducting all debursments there remains a ballance of one hundred forty three pound eighteen shillings and sixpennies Scots in the Treasurer's hands as attested.

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Accompts signed by the Clerk do bear.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 16th December 1753

Elizabeth Caldow was rebuked for the sixth time and absolved conform to the appointment of the Session. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 27th December 1753

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Andrew Hodge, John templeton, Alexander Johnston, Andrew Wilson and James Howat, members.

There being a flagrant report that Elizabeth Finlay, daughter of James Finlay, carrier and Euphen Cannon in Stay by Gate have been detected in several thefts particularly in breaking open a chest in the said James Finlays and carrying off a considerable sum of money and the said scandalous practice at least the fama clamosa being publick the Session thought themselves bound to make enquiry about it in order to proper censure where fore they ordered their officer to summons the said Elizabeth Finlay and Euphan Cannon to compear before them upon Sabbath next after sermon.

There were produced the following Testimonials. One from the Session of New Cumnock October 1st 1751 in favour of John Murray and Jannet Halbert his spouse for all their time preceeding the date of it. Another from the Session of Ochiltree dated 21st October 1753 in favour of James Ingles and Joan Murdoch his spouse and two daughters, for fourty years (as to the parents) preceeding the date of it. And a third from the Session of Auchinleck dated 4th of November 1753 in favour of George Sloss and Mary Currie his spouse for three years preceeding Whitsunday 1752.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 3rd January 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, alexander Johnston, John Templeton, Andrew Hodge and James Howat, members.

In regard Elizabeth Finlay and Euphen Cannon did not compear the Session were not constitute on Sabbath but the orders renewed and the Officer ordered to cite them this day who declares he summons the both pro secundo and they being called Euphen Cannon compeared but the other compeared not. Euphen being interrogate, acknowledged that for a great while she says upwards of a twelve month she was in use to receive money from Elizabeth Finlay to buy things for her and that she had had given her at nine different times since summer ten crown pieces to herself but deny'd that ever she stole any money herself. Being interrogate where she Elizabeth Finlay got that money she says she did not know only that Finlay told her she borrowed it from different persons being wherefore she hid that money she says Finlay bade her, Being asked if she did not buy plumbcake with the money she said she bought one from John White in Lady Wallacetoun's name with four shillings she got from Finlay and that they & the dogs

Eat it among the bushes privately. She likewise declares that she bought at Kilamarnock a silk cap, a gause napkin, a lawn apron. Two pair of stocking for Finlay with money which she says she got from her for that purpose. Being asked what they did with these things, she says sometimes Finlay kept them, but that none of them wore any of them and declares that they were all in her custody till last week when she delivered them to Finlay's mother. She says she bought the apron from William Crichton in Cumnock and the other things from Baillie Mitchess in Kilmarnock. She further declares that she bought treacle and sweet meats which they supp'd and ate alone about the Dykes' and also honey which they disposed of in the same way. They summons her apud acta to compear Sabbath next and ordered the officer to cite Elizabeth Finlay pro tertio.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir moderator.

Cumnock 6th January 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, John Templeton, Andrew Wilson & James Howat, members.

Euphen Cannon & Elizabeth Finlay called, Cannon compeared, Finlay did not, and as the officer reports he never got her personally but left the summons at her father's hhouse. They appoint him to summons her the first time he can get to her personally apprehended to compear before the then next meeting of Session and in case that should not happen till next Presbytery that the minister then take their advice.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 8th January 1754

This day were produced the following testimonials. One from the Session of New Cumnock dated 19th May 1751 in favour of John Rankine, Jannet Tod and his children for two years and half preceeding it. Another from the Session of Ochiltree dated 24th February 1753 in favour of Robert Hanna and Helen Osburn his spouse, the said Robert for about four months preceeding the date of it and Helen for the most part from her infancy. GM

Cumnock 13th January 1754

The Session appointed a Testimonial for William Merry from his infancy to this date. GM

Cumnock 20th January 1754

The Session appointed a testimonial for John Thomson and Agnes McKindlar his spouse from their infancy to twelve month preceeding this date. GM

Cumnock 27th January 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, John Templeton, Andrew Wilson, George Murdoch & James Howat, members.

The Moderator reports that he wrote to the Presbytry of Lanerk with an extract of the minute of 27th of November last anent John Hamilton and has received for answer an extract of their sentence in that affair date 16th instant which was produced and read in Session and the extract left in relentis in the Clerk's hand, which sentence is

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is as follows "They unanimously agreed to dispense with Hamilton's compearing before this Presbytery in regard he is now incapable thro age and infirmity and refer him to the Session of Cumnock to be taken under a course of discipline and to do therein as they shall see cause". The Session in consequence of this power agreed to take the said John Hamilton under the discipline usual in such cases, and therefore appointed him to be summon'd to compear before them next Lord's day.

The Session appointed a testimonial for Jannet Arthur and her son John Thomson from their infancy to Whitsunday 1752.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 3^d February 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, John Templeton, Elders, James Howat & John Vallance Deacons.

Compeared John Hamilton who upon intimating the sentence mentioned in the preceeding minute exprest his sorrow for the adultery and contumacy to which it has a respect and desired the Session might take the proper steps towards his absolution, accordingly after exhorting him they agreed to it and for that purpose summoned him apud acta to appear in sackcloth next Lord's day at the place of publick repentance.

The minister reported with respect to William Aiken as in minute of the 9th of December that the Session of Ayr examined him upon oath which was precisely in terms of his declaration before this Session of the 24th of July 1748. And upon that advising with the Presbytery they allowed us to give Allan Aiken the Oath of Purgation wherefore they appointed him and Jean Nicol to be cited against the Sabbath the 24th of February instant.

The Minister likewise reported with respect to Elizabeth Finlay as in minute of the 6th January that the presbytery appointed her to be summoned before them at Ayr the 20th instant wherefore the Session appointed their officer to summons her accordingly.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 24th February 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, George Murdoch, Alexander Johnston, Andrew Hodge, Andrew Wilson.

Compeared Allan Aikin & Jean Nicol who persisted she in her accusation and he in his denial as formerly. And he insisting to have the Oath administered, the Session agreed to it and appointed both parties to appear before the Congregation for that purpose this forenoon.

Allan Aikin accordingly had the Oath of Purgation administered to him and was absolved.

Being certainly inform'd that Elizabeth Finlay is at a considerable distance from this place they agreed to delay prosecuting her till she returns.

Jean Nicol apply'd for liberty to make publick profession of her repentance which they agreed to and appointed her to appear in the afternoon the next Lord's Day.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir. Moderator.

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Cumnock 28th February 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch, & James Howat, Members.

Compeared Euphan Cannon professed sorrow for her conduct as mentioned in minute of January 3rd and requested proper steps might be taken in order to her absolution. The Session considering her desire appointed her to appear in publick the next Lord's Day in the forenoon to be rebuked and absolved.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 3rd March 1754

Euphen Canon compeared was rebuked and absolved conform to the last minute. GM

Cumnock 11th March 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, George Murdoch, Andrew Wilson, Andrew Hodge, John Vallance and James Howat, Members.

In regard John Dalyell tenant in Nether Darmalloch and William Dalyell tenant in Stepend as principals and Agnes Dalyell, relict of the deceast Robert Douglas Merchant in Cumnock NS Henry Douglas in Cumnock her son as cautioners have offered to grand bond in favour of the poor of this

parish for eight hundred and twenty five merks Scots money with interest from the date of their bond. The Session did and herby do unanimposly agree upon their lodging the said with the Treasurer to assign to and on favour of the saif John and William Dalyells the bond dated the 28th August 1740 registrate in books of Session the 26th of June 1753, with ?? thereon dated the 26th and signed the 28th of June and execution thereof dated the 6th July said year.

Granted by John Wallace of Wallacetown and James Wallace his son to the poor of this parish for six hundred merks Scots with interest due thereon from August 1746 and appointed and hereby do appoint their moderator and James Howat their Treasurer to subscribe in their name the said assignation in due form.

The Session having at their meeting revised the Treasurer's accompts from the 7th of December last to this date find a ballance in his hand of eighty three pound nineteen shillings and four pennies Scots and appoint their moderator and treasurer and Clerk to subscribe the docuit offered to said ballancing.

The(y) likewise appointed the list of bills and bonds due to the Session to be ingrossed in the Treasurers accompt of charges and discharges.

The Minister produced a letter from the Presbytery of Lanerk of the 1st instant, informing that this Session were not to absolve John Hamilton without first reporting to said Presbytery their satisfaction with his compearances and receiving their judgement thereupon as said letter in the Clerk's hands bears. George Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 17th March 1754

The Session appoint William Tannahill a Testimonial for upwards of twenty years preceeding this date only he hath been off in the way of his business as a teacher of church music in other parishes for several years past for months together. GM

Cumnock 24th March 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator. Alexander Johnstone, Andrew Hodge and James Howat.

Upon her application they appointed Margaret Muir mentioned in minute the 15th July 1753 to be rebuked in publick for the first time this day.

Cumnock 7th April 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, Andrew Wilson, John Templeton and James Howat.

John Hamleton having made several publick compearances was called before the Session when he gave such account of his repentance as gave them freedom to apply to the Presbytry of Lanerk for their authority to proceed towards his absolution, and therefore desired the minister to write them to that purpose and report.

Jean Nicol who has likewise made several publick compearances was called before the Session and examined as to the sense she had of her sin. The Session were satisfied so far as to allow her to gone on in the profession of her repentance.

The Session appointed a Testimonial for William Aitkin from his infancy to Whitsunday 1752.

They appointed a testimonial for Robert Gawt for above 20 years preceeding Whitsunday last.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 18th April 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and Members.

Margaret Muir giving satisfying evidence as to the sense she had of her sin the Session unanimously agreed that she should make her appearance in publick for the third time on the forenoon on Sabbath next and be absolved.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 21st April 1754

This day Margaret Muir made her appearance for the third time, and was rebuked and absolved. According to the appointment of Session as above.

William Aitken produced a certificate from the Session of Ayr for himself and family from Whitsunday 1753 to April 1754. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 4th May 1754

The Session appointed testimonials for John Crawford for half a year preceeding Martinmass 1752 and Jannet Hunter his wife for most of her days preceeding their marriage.

Cumnock 5th May 1754

The Session appoint a Testimonial for Mary McWhirter for three half years preceeding this date.

Cumnock 19th May 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the Members.

When they made choice of George Murdoch as Presbytry Elder for

last half year.

(The y being informed of Jean Nicols having got herself drunk and behaved with rudeness, beating up* a private family at Midnight upon Thursday the 25th April or betwixt that and the 26th or on one or other of the days or nights of that month. They considering this deportment unbecoming the Christian name in any view, and particularly inconsistent with her present profession of repentance for a relapse into the sin of fornication as in former minutes, unanimously thought themselves bound to make due enquiry into that affair and for that purpose they ordered their officer to summon her before the them next Lord's day and to cite James Howat, Deacon and his wife as witnesses.

They appointed the following testimonials to be given out – For Margaret Russell for half a year preceeding Martinmass, for Mary Reid for eleven years preceeding this date, and for Agnes Johnston for most of her time preceeding this date.

The session saw a testimonial for said Margaret Russell from the Session of Dalmellington for half a year preceeding Whitsunday 1753.

Cumnock 26th May 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, George Murdoch, John Templeton, Andrew Wilson, Andrew Hodge and John Vallence, members.

The considering that their minutes from the 21st February 1742 to the 16th November 1746 were all on separate pieces of paper not registered many of them by that means lost and the rest of them in danger of falling by and that the minutes from said 16th November 1746 to 21st February 1753, when Mr Irvine their present Clerk was admitted, were likewise unregistered they agreed to pay fifteen shillings Sterling to George Mackervail for filling all up in this register from foresaid 21st February 1742 to the said 21st February 1753 which he did from the 47 to the 164 pages of second volume in folio of their records being 117 pages and desired Mr Irvine as soon as possible to fill up the minutes since his admission.

They appointed a separate register to be kept from this date for marking testimonials presented to the Session, and given out by them, and for the greater conveniency recommended it to their Clerk to put it in an alphabetical order.

They likewise appointed their Moderator, Alexander Johnstone and Clerk to revise the Treasurers Accompts at their conveniency to attest them and report.

Jean Nicol being called compeared and being interrogate as to the report mentioned in last minutes, acknowledged that being necessarily out till past eleven at night and finding the door of the house where she slept shut she did call at James Howat's door and got access but denys she was in drink, having only drank a part of three chopine of ale that day.

James Howat being called and both the Session and Jean Nicol being satisfied with his declaration

he aged above fifty, purged of malice and partial counsel interrogate, declares that as he thinks upon the 26th of April. Betwixt eleven and twelve at night when they were asleep one called at the door and upon his asking who it was, it was answered I will not tell you till I get in. He upon this told he would not open the door till he knew who it was, to which it was answered But I will be in. When the Declarant rose and opening the door he found it was Jean Nicol who said "This was a strange place for I have got an unco* convoy** this night". He after going to bed heard her talking so much that he ordered her out upon which she went away just about twelve o'clock at night. And further declares that next day he asked her who gave her the convoy she spoke of to which she answered nobody convoyed me I know not what I said and declares this to be the truth. Signed James Houat.

**unco – a strange person (a stranger) or an unusual thing*

***convoy – an escort, or to be escorted or accompanied.*

Helen Reid his spouse being called compeared and Jean Nicol agreeing likewise to dispense with her oath, she aged above twenty purged of partial counsel declare Ut Supra in Onimbus* except as to the last circumstance and added that she thought her in drink because her tongue was short she threw up and acknowledged that a cupful would do her ill sometimes and that she said she heard James Howat talking at the door with them that had given her the convoy when the declarant heard nobody at the door was satisfied her husband was in bed and she declares this to be the truth and declares she cannot write. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

**Ut Supra in Onimbus – as above in all things – agreed with everything.*

The Session after the proof was led before they judged of it agreed to enquire into a report of her having behaved unseemingly since that time and for that purpose cited her apud acta to next Lord's Day and ordered their officer to summond John Duncan, William and Charles Crichtons as witnesses.

Concluded with prayer.

Eodem die the session appointed a testimonial for John Wood for three years immediately preceeding this date.

The Session saw a Testimonial for Mary Ross from the Session in Dalmellington for several years preceeding Martinmass last.

Cumnock 2nd June 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, John Templeton, John Vallance.

The Session appoint a meeting on Tuesday at the Manse about some business relative to the poors money.

Jean Nicol called compeared and being interrogate as to her being out under cloud of night on Thursday three weeks and being with men in the fields she answered that hearing a noise without doors as if some people had been fighting she went out the back of James Howats

Where she found Charles and William Crichtons fighting together whom she endeavoured to separate which she says is all she did.

John Duncan and William Crichton called compeared, the former near forty the latter above twenty purged of partial counsel declared that on the night mentioned they both saw Jean Nicol on the place mentioned in her acknowledgement and both agree that they saw no misbehaviour about her only apprehended she had been in drink from the shortness of her tongue and they declare this to be the truth. Signed John Duncan Will. Crichton.

Charles Crichton called compeared aged about seventeen purged as before declared ut supra. Signed Charles Crichton.

The Session by Jean Nicols declaration finding that the said William & Charles Crichtons had been fighting they interrogate them with respect to it who both acknowledging and expressing their sorrow for & resolution against it. The Session sought proper to exhort rebuke and dismiss them without making any more of it.

And with respect to Jean Nicol they were unanimously of opinion it is proven she was in drink both the nights mentioned in the proof and therefore suspend her compearances and absolution untill they shall see cause to readmit her on the profession of her repentance.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 4th June 1754

The Session met and after prayer.

Sederunt the Minister, Alexander Johnstone, John Templeton and James Howat.

They being informed that Christian Good relict of William Craig in Waterside intended to commune with them in order to payment of the Bills due by the **desirnot** to the Session upon assignation from Jean McCowan and John Templeton her husband. They desired her to attend this dyet who being called compeared and represented that after rousing* her effects all she could do in order to payment of said bill was as follows: To indow a bill granted to her by Charles Murdoch in Ochiltree for one pound ten shillings and six pence sterling dated 14th May last payable Lambass next, to procure a bill granted by William Craig her son for eleven shillings & eight pence sterling of this date payable Lambas next & to pay in cash seven shillings & ten pence sterling which in all makes thirty pounds scots. The next principal sum due on both the bills granted by her husband and assigned to the Session as said is & declaring she could do no more begged the Session would accept these payments in full without interest – which the Session considering agreed to do for the following reasons. 1st that they were satisfied Christian Good was not able to pay the interest without being greatly straitened & that both the bills granted by her husband & assigned to the Session were now long **preserved** being payable at Martinmass 1725 & therefor ordered the treasurer upon receiving the two new bills above narrated & the cash mentioned, to give up the old bills with the assignation, which was accordingly done in their presence.

**rouping – selling by auction*

The session being informed that William Donald Merchant in Ayr had received forty nine pounds sterling – which after deducing the charges of procuring it at London was all the money left by John Mitchel planter in Jamaica to the poor of the Parish & that he has granted bill for the same to Mr William Logan, Writer in Cumnock dated 17th January 1754 payable Whitsunday next thereafter. They desired Mr Logan to represent that matter upon which he produced & **undersed** the said bill to the Session & as he had received nine pound sterling which is marked on the back he delivered that in cash – Both which the bill and cash they put into the Treasurer's hands – and agreed to mark in this minute that the reason for Mr Donald's bill was not payable till Whitsunday tho he received the money in January was, he had desired the use of the money for that time as a reward of his trouble in getting it from London.

The Session received in an account due to the said Mr Logan for writings charges &c with respect to that affair amounting to three pounds two shillings sterling, which they ordered payed off as said amount discharged in Treasurer's hand bears.

The Committee appointed to revise the Treasurer's accounts report that after allowing all deburements & charging him with all receivings from the 11th of March last to this date – there is a ballance in his hand of seventeen pound seventeen shillings eleven pennies Scots money and that they attested his account.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 7th July 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members.

Compeared ultroneously Janet McMillan daughter of Thomas McMillan carrier in Cumnock and declared that she was with child – being interrogate who was the father of it she accused Thomas Gemmill, son to William Gemmill carrier in New Cumnock and declares that on the Friday after Candlemass and several times before that the number she cannot tell been guilty with him that it was always in her father's house, except once in the year.

Being interrogate as to a report of her having to her drugs with a view to procure an abortion she said she got some herbs from John Patrick, shoemaker in Cumnock of which she drank twice, being askt what sort of herbs they were or for what reason she procured them she answered she knew not their quality but got them & used them because she was not as she used to be and further declared that she got a bottle of drops from Mr Wilson surgeon in Cumnock which she sought for fainting fits . Being askt where Thomas Gemmell now was she said he went for England on Monday last. Being askt why she never made this declaration before he went off she said she did not know of it till the Saturday's night before. Being further interrogate if she was guilty with him after that Candlemass Friday she said not. The Session considering her declaration with respect to her taking drugs thought it necessary to call Mr Wilson & John Patrick to give their declaration with respect to the drops & herbs and for that purpose appoint their officer to summond them & the said Janet McMillan against this day eight days.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator

Cumnock 14th July 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt ut supra.

Janet McMillan called compeared and adhered to her former acknowledgement.

John Patrick called compeared being interrogate declared he had got some herbs from Mathew Pen at Leifnorris for his sister in law who had a swelling on her knee & that he gave them to Janet McMillans mother for her daughter's behoof some time in the month of April but he declares he did not know she was with child. Signed John Patrick.

With respect to Mr Wilson the Moderator reports that he waited of him yesterday & begged he would excuse him to the Session for not attending this Diet especially as he could say nothing in that affair more than that he had given Janet McMillan some Spirit of Hartshorn for fainting fits without knowing or suspecting her being with child and that he afterwards gave her a pultis* for a beal'd** breast when he did suspect her pregnancy and challenged her with it but got no answer.

The Session after exhorting Janet McMillian refer the consideration of this affair till afterward.

**pultis – poultice*

***bealed – suppurated/infected*

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock August 18th 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch, John templeton & John Vallance.

Elizabeth Duncan in Cumnock appeared ultroneously and complained that James (actually Janet) Ingram spouse to Edward Crichton, mason in Cumnock did on Wednesday was a fournight publicly calumniate* her good name by saying in the house of John Patrick, shoemaker that she had stolen mutton from James Smith for which she offers the said John Patrick, Agnes Rankine his wife and Alexander Richmond his servant as witnesses and craved the Session might take what steps to them seems meet for restoring her good name and bringing the said Janet Ingram to due censure which complaint and petition she is ordered to subscribe but declares she cannot write (sic subscr. Geo Muir, Moderator)

**calumniate – to use calumny – to slander.*

The Session considering the above complaint sustained the relevancy of it to infer scandal and therefore appoint a meeting at the Manse on Friday at 12 o'clock pr re nata and ordered their officer to summon the said Janet Ingram & the above witnesses to that dyet.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock August 23rd 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, Andrew Hodge, James Howat, Members with John Templeton.

Janet Ingram called compeared and being interrogate after hearing the above complaint and the complainer insisting in it she denied it upon which Elizabeth Duncan craved the witnesses might be called examined and both parties being asked if they would be pleased with their declaration they answered in the affirmative. Accordingly John Patrick, aged above thirty married, purged of partial counsel declared that as he supposed on the day mentioned in Lybel he heard Janet Ingram say to the complainer Do not you mind since you went into James Smith's room took mutton out of his stand boul'd it in your pot took it out to the yeard & eat it and he declares this to be the truth. (Sic subscribitur) John Patrick.

Agnes Rankine spouse to the above declarant aged above thirty purg'd of malice and partial counsel declared that she hear'd the defender say to the complainer Do you mind since you stole James Smith's mutton & boiled it in your pot, & believes she spoke about eating it in the yeard. Declares this to be the truth & declares she cannot write. (Sic subsc.) Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Alexander Richmond aged above 20, unmarried purged of partial counsel declared that he heard the defender say the complainer took James Smith's mutton boil'd it in her kail pot went to the yeard & eat it and declares this to be the truth (sic subscribitur) Alexander Richmond.

The Session considering the above proof were unanimously of opinion that Janet Ingram was guilty of the scandal lybelled & that upon her professing sorrow for it and promising better behaviour in time to come the ends of edification might be answered by a Sessional rebuke. Accordingly she being called professed sorrow and promised amendment whereupon the Moderator rebuked, exhorted and absolved her.

Concluded with prayer.

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Cumnock 8th September 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members excepting Andrew Hodge.

They being informed that John Thomson day labourer in Cumnock should yesterday fourthnight being Saturday been drunk & in drink have beat & struck several persons concerning which they hear that George Muir, Servant to the Moderator & William Wilson Officer in Cumnock can give intelligence, they appointed their officer to cite the said John Thomson & the said witnesses to compear before them next Lord's day.

Cumnock September 11th 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, John templeton, Andrew Hodge, James Howat.

They being informed that there was a report of Elizabeth McGawn, daughter to William McGaun shoe maker in Cumnock her being with child in uncleanness meet pro re nata having ordered her to be summoned to this dyet who being called compeared & being interrogated acknowledged she was with child to William Gibson (*believed Gib*), son to James Gib of Dalblair in the Parish of Auchinleck. She says she is with child since the May Fair in Cumnock declares she was guilty with the said William Gib two different times & that both in the fields. After rebuking & exhorting her she was summoned from the bar to compear before the Session next Sabbath when she promised to cause the said William Gib to compear without summons.

The Session being informed that Thomas Gemmill mentioned in Minute of July the seventh is just now in the Parish of New Cumnock they desire Alexander Johnston to write to Mr Hunter to cause cite him before this Session Sabbath next and return the execution of the summons.

Being likewise informed that Elizabeth Findlay mentioned in the minute the 24th of February last is returned to this place they order their officer to summond her against Sabbath next.

Cumnock September 15th 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all members excepting Andrew Hodge.

John Thomson called compeared & acknowledged that he was drunk the Saturdays night mentioned but denies that he beat anybody at least any body we know of.

George Muir being called compeared & being interrogate declared that on the night mentioned the sau=id John Thomson struck him once on the head & once on the shoulders and threatened to knock him down if he wou'd not help up some men that he said were going to eternity which he the declarant supposed were drunk & declares this to be the truth. Sic subscribitur Georg Muir.

William Wilson being called compeared, declares that on the night mention'd he saw John Thomson have a stick in his hand with which he struck at him but did not hurt him and added that he does not doubt but he likewise struck at George Muir but cannot be positive & he declares this to be the truth. Sic subscribitur Wil. Wilson.

The session finds it proven that John Thomson was drunk & that he beat both the declarants & refer giving judgement of it til next Lords Day when he is summoned to attend.

Elizabeth McGaun called compeared not nor did William Gibb compear according to her promise wherefor the session ordered their officer to to cite her against this day fourthnight & desired Alexander Johnston to write to the Session of Auchinleck to cite William Gibb & return execution.

Alexander Johnston produced execution of summons against Thomas Gemmill who being called did not compear whereupon they renewed their desire upon

Alexander Johnston to cause cite him pro secundo next sabbath & ordered their officer to cite Janet McMillan to that Dyet.

Elizabeth Finlay call'd compeared & after being exhorted to ingenuity in that matter & interrogate she declared absolutely in the negative as to the report against Euphan Cannon & her & as to the whole particulars of Euphan Cannon's declaration; upon which the Session cited her apud actaum & ordered their officer to summond Euphan Cannon against next Lord's Day. G Muir, Moderator

Cumnock September 22nd 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members present.

This day the collection for new Jesrsey Colledge conform to Act of Assembly was made when besides eighteen pounds Scots of common collection my Lord Dumfries gave two hundred & fourty pounds Scots amounting in all to two hundred & fifty eigh pounds Scots which they gave to the Minister recommending it to him to procure the Presbytries Clerk's receipt for it.

John Thomson called compeared professed sorrow for his sin of drunkenness & resolution to behave more circumspectly for the future, upon which by the unanimous voice of the Session he was rebuked and absolved.

Alexander Johnston reported with respect to William Gibb that he has askt it as a favour the Session might not insist in their last days resolution of causing him to be summoned – and that in that event that he would without summons wait of a Quorum of their number any day they chused and answer to Elizabeth McGavin's accusation which the Session agreed to & named Saturday next for him to wait of the Moderator and any two Elders at the Manse for that purpose – where their officer was ordered to summon Elizabeth McGavin to attend.

As to Thomas Gemmill the Session being informed that he is gone to his harvest at some distance they did not call him or Janet McMillan but agreed to delay further prosecution of that affair untill he should return.

Elizabeth Finlay called compeared & being further interrogate she continued to deny her having stole any of the money mentioned in Euphan Cannons acknowledgement. She owned it consisted with her knowledge that the said Euphan Cannon was in the practice of stealing things while she was in connection with her; without detecting or bringing her to justice for which she professed sorrow and begged the Session might take proper steps toward her absolution. The Session considering that Elizabeth (Euphan) Cannon was examined she could not be a habile* witness being guilty herself. That they knew no means by which to bring this matter further to light, and that James Finlay was convinced of his daughter's innocence received her back to his family. Considering these things they unanimously agreed to dismiss this prosecution by rebuking Elizabeth Finlay from the bar for what she acknowledged & exhorting her to better behaviour in time to come which was accordingly done and she absolved.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator

**a habile witness – a suitable or fit witness*

Cumnock September 28th 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, Andrew Hodge and James Howat.

William Gibb and Elizabeth McGavin called compeared. Elizabeth McGavin adhered to her former acknowledgement & accusation. William Gibb being interrogate acknowledged he had been guilty with her twice, the first

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time in February, the second in May or the first of June both out of doors.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock October 3rd 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt as above.

Mr William Donald mentioned in minute June the fourth last desire the Session to meet pro renata that he might make payment of the bill mentioned in said minute, the remainder of the principal sum being fourtie pound sterling with annual rent from 3rd May last to this day being four months thirteen shillings and four pence sterling which he paid to the Treasurer whereupon the Session appointed him to give up & in their name discharge the bill which he accordingly did.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock October 20th 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, George Murdoch, John Templeton, Andrew Hodge, John Valance & James Howat when they made choice of George Murdoch as presbytery elder for the current half year.

They likewise appointed the Moderator, Alexander Johnston & the Clerk to revise the Treasurer's accompts upon Thursday the 24th instant to attest the same in their name & report.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock November 3rd 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, John Vallance & James Howat.

The committee appointed to revisit the Treasurers Accompts report that from the fourth of June to the said 24th October there is a ballance in his hands of five hundred & eighty three pounds seven shillings & seven pence Scots money after allowing all the debursements which they attested in the book of charge and discharge according to appointment. The Treasurer likewise reports that William Craig, Mason in Waterside paid up his bill of eleven shillings & eight pence sterling whereof mention is made in minute of 4th June last & that he in the Session's name gave up the said bill discharged.

An execution of summons against William Gemmill was produced when he and Janet McMillan were called and compeared, she being interrogate accused him as before. He being interrogate absolutely denied the charge. They were summoned apud acta to compear this day fournight.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock November 17th 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, John Templeton, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, John Vallance & James Howat members.

Thomas Gemmill & Janet McMillan called. He compeared not. She compeared, adhered to her former accusation & added that James Mitchell, son to Alexander Mitchel in Cumnock and Hugh Crawford, inn-keeper there knew circumstances that she imagined wou'd be presumptions of Thomas Gemmill's guilt and begg'd they might be called & examined whereupon the Session order'd the parties & these witnesses against the next Lord's Day to be summoned.

The Minister produced the Presbytery Clerk's discharge for twenty one pounds ten shillings sterling collected for the New Jersey College as in minute of the 22nd September.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

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Cumnock November 25th 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, Andrew Hodge & James Howat members.

Yesterday and execution of sundries was produced against Thomas Gemmil but in regard he did not compear the Session delay'd the calling and examining of witnesses mentioned in last minute till this night when they and the other party Janet McMillan were desired to attend. She being called compeared, adhered to her former accusation & insisted that the witnesses should be examined.

Accordingly Hugh Crawford called compeared, aged upwards of forty years, married, purged of partial counsel declares that on Monday the 4th of November last Thomas Gemmill was with Walter Anderson in his house when Walter and the declarant were in a friendly way advising him to do justice to the woman in taking with the child if it was his, but declares that he did not say he was the father. Only upon Walter Anderson proposing and the declarant agreeing that each of them should give her a peck of malt to help her when lying in, Thomas Gemmill have the declareant money for

that purpose but said this is no evidence that I am to take with the child, which he declares to be the truth. Sic subsc. Hugh Crawford.

James Mitchel called compear'd aged upwards of fifteen, unmarried purged of partial counsel declared that om the Friday after Candlemass Thursday he was sent in for Janet McMillan to come to his father's house and that upon going in he found her and Thomas Gemmill in bed together. Declares this to be the truth. Sic Subsc. James Mitchell.

Cumnock December 8th 1754

The Session met before Sermon after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, Andrew Hodge & James Howat, members.

When George Muir mentioned in a former minute of the 29th of July 1753 made application to be taken in profession of his repentance. The Session considering his request appointed him to appear in the forenoon to be rebuked for the first time.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator

Conform to the appointment of the Session in last minute George Muir made his appearance and was rebuked accordingly.

Cumnock December 15th 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templeton, Andrew Hodge & James Howat, members.

George Muir having this day made his appearance in public for the second time, waited on the Session, being examined as to the sense had of his sin & giving satisfying evidence thereof the Session appointed him to appear in public the next Sabbath in order to be rebuked and absolved.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock December 19th 1754

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except George Murdoch.

Compeared James Anthony in Cumnock and Charles Hervey in Templand Shaw produced their conjunct bill of this date payable one day after date for twenty six pounds five shillings sterling and desired that the Session upon that security would lend them that sum which they unanimously agreed to & appoint their Treasurer to deliver that money and receive that bill.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock December 22nd 1754

George Muir appear'd this day in public for the third time, & was rebuked and absolved.

Cumnock March 16th 1755

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator & all the members except Alexander Johnstoun when they unanimously referred the affair of Thomas Gemmill & Janet McMillan to the Presbytery.

The Committee appointed verbally to revise the Treasurer's Accompts report that on the third instant they found a ballance in his hand of two hundred and ten pounds three shillings four pennies Scots – vide cash book page 25.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock June 5th 1755

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templetoun, Andrew Hodge & James Howat members.

When the Moderator in obedience to the Session's appointment 7th April 1754 having writ the the Session of Lanerk produced a letter from them referring to the Session, the absolution of John Hamilton that they may do therein, as they see cause as the said letter dated at Lanerk May 22nd 1755 bears. Whereupon the Session appointed John Hamilton to be summoned to the Session on Sabbath senight.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock June 29th 1755

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator & members.

Compeared Elizabeth mcGaun & begged the Session would take the proper steps toward her being absolved from the scandal under which she lyes with William Gibb which they agreed to & appointed her to be rebuked this day in the forenoon which was accordingly done.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock July 27th 1755

The Session met before sermon after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templetoun &c.

Compeared John Hamilton who being examined & dealt with with respect to the sense he had of his sins & the way of getting pardon they appointed him to be rebuked this day & absolved conform to their promise from the Presbytery of Lanark mentioned in minute the 5th of June which was accordingly done.

Concluded with prayer.

Eodem die the Session met ut supra Elizabeth McGaun having been rebuked this day for the fifth time was called compeared & being examined and exhorted was appointed to be rebuked & absolved the next Lord's Day.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 3rd August 1755

This day Elizabeth McGaun was rebuked for the sixth time and absolved conform to the appointment of Session the preceeding Sabbath.

Cumnock 24th August 1755

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator & members when the moderator produced the following letter dated at Cumnock 22nd August 1755 – Reverend Sir I am informed that I am to be summoned to the Presbytery for the sin of fornication with Janet McMillan. I do not intend to compear in regard I am guilty & I am willing to give satisfaction to the people of God when called for my sin. I desire your prayer & all the people of God both for this sin & for my denial so long which is all, from your servant, signed Thomas Gemmill.

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This day also Janet McMillan made application to the Session to be admitted to make profession of her repentance which after considering her request they granted & accordingly appointed her to make her appearance the next Sabbath.

Cumnock August 31st 1755

This day Janet McMillan made her appearance for the first time & was rebuked according to the appointment of the Session.

Cumnock September 21st 1755

Janet McMillan made her appearance for the second time was rebuked & ordered to continue in the profession of her repentance.

Cumnock 5th September 1755

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator & members.

This day Janet McMillan having been rebuked for the second time as mentioned was called before the Session compeared & being examined and exhorted was appointed to be rebuked and absolved next Lord's day.

Concluded with prayer. Geor Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock October 12th 1755

This day Janet McMillan was rebuked for the last time & absolved conform to the appointment of the Session the preceeding Sabbath.

Cumnock 25th November 1755

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templeton, Andrew Hodge Elders.

Jphn Templeton, Officer and Bellman compeared declared that because of his age and infirmness he was unable to act any more in that capacity & therefor expressed his willingness to demit from & lay down that charge which he having judicially done the Sessu=ion accepted his demission upon which he delivered in their hands a baptism plate which was the only utencil in his custody belonging to the Session. Thereafter the Session proceeded to the election of a Kirk officers & bellman when James Howat one of the Deacons in this parish was unanimously chosen who being call'd compeared & after judicially demitting from his office of Deacon he accepted that of Kirk Officer & belmann & gave his promise de fidele administratione whereupon the said baptism plate was delivered in to his hands & he ordered to enter upon the execution of his office. The Session eacting as they hereby enact that from this date he the said James Howat should continue to act as their Treasurer pro tempore enjoying the salary due to the office as before and concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 18th December 1755

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templeton, Andrew Hodge.

Compeared Robert Mitchell at Leifnorris & represented that as Janet Brown his wife has brought him forth a child considerably before the time according to the date of their marriage he was sorry for the scandal of it as being a breach of good laws & order and that though their intention of marriage was notour long before the said cohabitation he was willing to submit to what censure the Session should see meet to inflict in order to satisfy the Congregation & obtain baptism for his child. The Session upon this unanimously agreed that he should be publicly rebuked next Lord's Day in the forenoon & absolved and they appointed him to compear for that purpose accordingly.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 17th February 1756

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnsroun, Andrew Hodge, John Templeton.

Compeared being cited George Brown, taylor in Cumnock & Susanna Cochrane his wife & produced

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marriage lines subscribed at Glasgow the 9th of May last by one George Wilson priest and two witnesses bearing that they were married by the said George Wilson before the said witnesses. They acknowledged their marriage profess'd sorrow for the irregularity of it were rebuked and absolved.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir Moderator.

Cumnock 28th February 1756

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, Andrew Hodge, John Templeton when Elizabeth alias Euphan Dumbar in Stay by the Gate having been cited to this diet on the report of her being with child in fornication was call'd & not only did not compear but the officer reported that she told him she would not compear. The Session taking this into consideration agreed to petition the Justices of His Majesty's Peace for their warrant as a supplement to the Session's authority in order to her compearance & proper enquiry being made into the truth of her pregnancy for these reasons – 1st that she appears to be far gone with child & her mother Janet Howat declared it as her opinion to one of the elders a few days ago 2nd that she professes to leave the country in a few days after this without any person her knowing her motions 3rd that the session may by such means prevent the dangerous consequences of obstinate denial of pregnancy which have so often appeared – and appointed their moderator to sign the said petition in their name which was done.

The Session understand that George Murdoch, tenant in Craigends did upon Sabbath last the 22nd instant in the afternoon before the Congregation was dismissed most causelessly fall upon and cruelly beat James Cockburn a boy with a stick in upon the stair of the west loft in the church. Ordered their officer to cite him to compear before them at the Manse upon Wednesday the 3rd of March next at ten in the morning & to summon Robert Good, son to John Good wigmaker in Cumnock, Alexander Harper servant to James King, dyster there & Robert Wilson surgeon there as witnesses.

They then chose Alexander Johnstoun to attend the Presbytery as Elder during the current half year and concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 29th February 1756

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, Andrew Hodge, John Templeton and John Wallace and having formerly made choice of William Smith tennant in Pennyfadoch as one of the Elders of the parish he compeared being desired to attend the Session at this diet & expressing his willingness to accept of that office in this Parish. They admitted and received him by prayer & giving him the right hand of fellowship. As the said William Smith was formerly ordained in the Parish of Ochiltree they did not think it necessary to take any other previous step to his admission.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 3^d March 1756

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, Andrew Hodge, John Templeton.

They having obtained a warrant in consequence of their petition against Elizabeth Dunbar it was put by the Moderator into the hands of John Lamb, messenger, to execute and he the said John Lamb reported that she would neither come before the Session except he had caused her nor would she allow herself to be inspected by Margret Campbell & Sarah Aird who are named by the Justice of the peace in the said warrand for that purpose tho they went to Stay by Gate to execute that order. Moreover, he reported that she used threatening & menacing language against him & the Kirk officer & the women who went to inspect her particularly vowing that she would sett fire to their houses, or cause it to be done tho she were at a distance

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from them.

The Session considering these circumstances a strong presumption of guilt & that she is immediately to leave the Parish resolved to make no future enquiry in this way but to write to the Kirk Session of Stewarton to which Parish she is going & to keep this in their records that in the event of her return to the Parish they may lay her under proper discipline.

George Murdoch called compeared & interrogate declared that in the time & place mentioned in former minute he found his stick in the said James Cockburn's hand which he pulled from him & gave him over the fingers with it but denys that he struck him again on any other part of the body. The Session called Robert Good who compeared, aged about 22 years purged of partial counsel declares the Session and George Murdoch being both satisfied to dispense with his oath that on the day & place mentioned he saw the said George Murdoch with a small stick strike at the said James Cochrane who was lying upon one side upon the stair, being askt on what part of the body he struck him he said he thought it was about the shoulder & declared that he could not tell that he gave him any stroke but on being askt whether he thought the stroke might hurt the boy he declared that it might. Being ask'd if he saw or heard the boy give any provocation to the said George he answered in the negative & declares this to be the truth. Signed Robert Good.

Alexander Harper compeared aged about twenty two purged of partial counsel, his Oath being dispensed with that at the place & time mentioned that he saw George Murdoch with a small stick strike at the said boy over his arms or his loins sitting upon the stair & that he struck him oftener than once upon the same place but knows not how often he struck him. Being askt if he saw or

heard any provocation on the boy's part he answered in the negative, being asked if he thought the strokes given might hurt the boy he said he did not doubt but they might & he declares this to be the truth. Signed Alexander Harper.

Mr Wilson called compeared aged about twenty five purged of partial counsel his oath being dispensed with declares that upon the day mentioned after the dismissing the congregation he found upon the right side of the boy's head a contusion & swelling something less than a pidgeon's egg & a small scratch upon his templar muscle & another upon the upper side of his nose near the internal angle of his eyes & declared that these effects might have been produced either by a stroke or by a fall & he declares this to be the truth, signed Robert Wilson.

The Session having considered the above process & the public offence that the said George Murdoch by his conduct has given they unanimously agreed that a public rebuke was necessary & therefor appointed him to be rebuked publicly next Lord's Day in the forenoon which was intimate to him with proper exhortations.

Compeared Janet Brown spouse to Robert Mitchel in Woodside & begged the Session would take the proper steps towards her being absolved from the scandal of antenuptial fornication under which she lyes when they appointed her to be publicly rebuked three several times as it was a relapse in her case.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 7th March 1756

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Alexander Johnstoun, Andrew Hodge, John Templeton, William Smith, John Vallance and in regard George Murdoch did not compear to be rebuked according to appointment the Session renew their appointment on their

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Moderator to rebuke him next Lord's Day in the forenoon & order their officer to intimate the same to the said George Murdoch.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 14th May 1756

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Andrew Hodge, John Templeton, members.

Compeared being cited Helen Good on Horsecleugh, James Osburn, servant to Alexander Johnstoun in Cumnock on being called compeared not tho summoned to this Diet. The said Helen Good was interrogate as to a report of her being with child. She judicially acknowledged the truth of it. Being asked who was the father of her child she gave it to the said James Osburn, being asked when they should have been guilty she condescended upon the Monday before Candlemass or the 9th of

February last as the only time, said it was in her own house at Horse Cleugh & denied guilt with any other man.

As this is a relapse as to the said Helen Good into the same sin of fornication the Session delate any resolution respecting her till afterwards. Mean time they appointed the said James Osburn to be cited to compear before the Session pro secundo on Tuesday next being 18th instant when the said Helen Good was ordered to attend.

George Murdoch mentioned in former minut compeared and was rebuked conform thereunto.

Also Janet Brown compeared was rebuked & absolved agreeable to the former orders of the Session.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 18th May 1756

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Andrew Hodge & John Templeton.

James Osburn called compeared. Helen Good called compeared not. The said James Osburn being interrogate acknowledged guilt with the said Helen Good and condescended upon the same time mentioned in her acknowledgement whereupon he was rebuked and exhorted.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 7th June 1756

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt ut supra.

Called being cited to this Dyet Janet McMillan, daughter to Thomas McMillan in Cumnock, & Andrew Murray, servant to Elizabeth Crawford in Burnside. The former compeared, the latter compeared not. She was interrogate as to the report of her pregnancy & acknowledged the truth of it. Being askd who was the father of her child she gave it to the said Andrew Murray & declared she was 17 weeks gone with child. She was exhorted & rebuked & summoned to compear before the Session on Friday next the 11th instant when the officer was ordered to cite the said Andrew Murray pro secundo.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 11th June 1756

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt ut supra.

Andrew Murray & Janet McMillan were called & compeared when the said Andre Murray acknowledged he was father of her child – they were rebuked & exhorted.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 6th July 1756

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch, John Templeton, William Smith Elders John Vallance, deacon when they considering how long it is since the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper was dispensed in the Congregation unananimously agreed that all necessary steps previous to it should be taken by them with a view to have the Communion as soon as possible but delayed fixing the time till they could do it with more certainty as to the convenience

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of the Congregation.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 11th July 1756

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt ut supra except John Vallance – when after thinking of their resolution as in last minute they were unanimously of opinion that Sabbath the 5th of September next N.S. would be the first convenient day for having the Lord's Supper administered in the Congregation & therefor agreed that it shou'd be fixed to that day and the same be intimated by the minister from the pulpit after sermon (which was done) they concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 31st October 1756

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templeton, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge & William Smith Members.

Kathryn Goldie daughter to (blank space) Goldie late in Bridgend being cited to this Dyet upon a report of her being with child. She compeared & being interrogate acknowledged she was with child and declared that George Murray brother to John Murray Post in in Cumnock was the father of it. Upon which the Session summoned her to compear before them next Sabbath & ordered their officer to summon the said George Murray to compear before them that day.

Cumnock 7th November 1756

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templeton, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, William Smith and John Vallance, members.

George Murray and Katherine Goldie called compeared not. The session ordered their officer to cite them pro secundo on Thursday.

Cumnock 11th November 1756

The Session met but in regard that neither George Murray or Katherine Goldie tho called compeared not. The Session ordered their officer to cite them pro tertio against sabbath first.

Cumnock 14th November 1756

The Session met after prayer. Sederunt the Moderator & all the members. The above parties being called compeared when the said George Murray judicially acknowledged the accusation laid by Katherine Goldie to his charge. They are both rebuked and exhorted and the Session concluded with prayer.

Cumnock December 1756

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, Andrew Hodge John Templeton, members.

When Andrew Murray made application to the Session to be admitted to make profession of his repentance which after considering his request they granted and accordingly appointed him to make his appearance next Sabbath both in the fore & afternoon.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 5th December 1756

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Moderator and all the members.

Helen Good mentioned in former minute made application to the Session to be admitted to make profession of her repentance which they granted & appointed her to appear next Lord's Day to be rebuked in the afternoon.

This day Andrew Murray appeared both forenoon and afternoon and was rebuked accordingly & ordered to go in the profession of his repentance.

Cumnock 12th December 1756

This day Andrew Murray made his appearance for the third time & was rebuked & absolved. As also Helen Good made her appearance & was rebuked for the first time.

Cumnock 19th January 1757

The Session met pro re nata

Sederunt Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, Andrew Hodge, John Templeton.

Upon a flagrant report that Hugh Good, indweller in Cumnock was some years ago guilty of stealing some sheaves

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or stowks* of bear** or cats~ belonging to the deceased mr Cooper, late Minister of the Gospel at Auchinleck & the said Hugh Good never being able to procure a Testimonial from that Parish tis presumable that report is the cause of it. Wherefore the Session unanimously agreed to enquire into that matter in the usual way & accordingly appointed their officer to summon the said Hugh Good to compear before them on Thursday the 27th instant & desired the Moderator to write to the Session of Auchinleck to cause cite David Murdoch , Andrew Gibb & John Wilson all living at the Kirk of Auchinleck, Mungo Cochrane and James Weily in that parish as witnesses.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

**stowks – a stook/stack of crops*

*** bear – barley*

~ cats – a bundle of straw or corn which has not been put into sheaves or stacks

Cumnock 23rd January 1757

This day Helen Good made her appearance in public for the second time and was rebuked & ordered to go on in the profession of her repentance.

This day Helen Good made her appearance in public for the second time & was rebuked and ordered to go on in the profession of her repentance.

Cumnock 27th January 1757

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templeton, Andrew Hodge & William Smith, Elders.

Compeared Hugh Good who being interrogate as to the report of his having stole some bear from Mr Cowper in the year 1746 denied that he did it directly or indirectly.

Compeared David Murdoch aged about two & forty years or thereby, married solemnly sword purged of partial counsel depones that the said Hugh Good's bear was wie feckless bear as could be, that in his barn there was bear of that quality at the same time there was strong & clean bear that there was a pig* or two of Hugh's bear better than the rest but he thought it no so good as that strong and clean bear that it did not consist his personal knowledge that Mr Cowper had any bear ?stored but that there was in his view a great likeness betwixt that long clean bear & the bear that grew on Mr Cowpers Glebe. Being interrogate if he had any other reason for thinking the long clean bear in Hugh's barn was Mr Cowpers but the likeness between them he deponed that he thought the quantity of bear good & bad in Hugh's barn more than could have grown upon his bear ground but that he cannot say how much more. Being further interrogate if he observed any bear in Hugh's barn of a third kind answerable to that pigg or two of better bear which grew upon Hugh's own

ground he deponed in the negative & this he declares to be the truth as he shall answer to God.
Signed David Murdoch.

**pig - an earthenware vessel – a jar, pitcher or crock*

Compeared Mungo Cochrane aged eighty two, married, solemnly sworn purged of partial counsel depones that he knew nothing at all of the matter in question. On the contrary that Hugh Good lived forty years in his neighbourhood during all which time he never knew any thing to his disadvantage.
Signed Mungo Cochrane.

Compeared Andrew Gibb aged near about 34 years married solemnly sworn purged of partial counsel depones that he neaver really did think that Hugh Good stole bear but that he imagined there was other kind of bear in Hugh's barn than what grew on his grounds that year. Being asked if it consisted with his own personal knowledge that Mr Cowper had bear stolen that year he deponed in the negative. Being interrogate if he thought the better bear in Hugh's barn was a part of his own crop deponed that he thought it was not probable it was but deponed that he had never gone through Hugh's field when it was growing and only judged from the look of it at out side of the field & this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Signed Andrew Gibb.

Compeared John Wilson aged about thirty married solemnly sworn purged of partial counsel depones

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that to his knowledge there were different kinds of bear in Hugh Good's barn that to his knowledge there was a resemblance between the best bear in Hughs barn & Mr Cowpers but depones that it did not consist with his personal knowledge whether Mr Cowper had any bear stolen or not and depones that the sheaf by which the bear in Hugh's barn was compared was brought by Mr Cowpers servant but her knew not where he got it. Being interrogate if he ever took a particular survey of Hugh's bear when it was growing depones in the negative. Being interrogate if there might not have been better or worse bear in Hugh's field depones there might for anything he knew depones likewise that to the guess of his eye there was more bear in Hugh's barn than the ground cou'd probably produce and this is the truth &c. Signed John Wilson.

Compeared James Wylie aged forty eight years married solemnly sworn purged of partial counsel depones that about the time to which the above boths have a respect one night he saw two people upon the public road on the side of the which Hugh's house lay with burdens on their backs but deponed that he knew not whether men or women knew not whether it was wool victual hay or straw or what they carried knew not whence they came or whither they went. Depones heknows no more of the matter and this is the truth &c. Signed James Wylie.

The Session delay the consideration of this proof till Thursday next when Hugh Good is cited to appear.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 6th February 1757

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the moderator, Alexander Johnston, Andrew Hodge, John Templeton & William Smith members.

The Moderator having been absent on Thursday, Hugh Good was cited to this diet who being called compeared, he continued to deny any hand in the alleged scandal. The Session appointed their Moderator to write to the Session of Auchinleck where the theft was said to be committed to see if there are any others known to them that can witness in that affair & if there are to cause summon them to compear befoore this Session upon Thursday se'ennight the 17th instant.

They likewise appointed Helen Good to procure Testimonials from the Kirk Session of N. Cumnock that they may know the state of the scandals against her in that parish before they proceed owards absolution.

Concluded with prayeer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 10th February 1757

The Session met, Sederunt t supra.

Helen Good produced a line of yesteray's date subcriibed by William Arthur, one f the Elders of N. Cumnco bearing that she was absolved in that Session for the first but not for the relapse into fornication – and now that the present is a trilapse she having been four different times rebuked in public having waited on most of the members of Session at their own houses and expressed her sense of sorrow & contrition together with her desire of redemption through the Blood of Christ His Grace – the Session did & hereby do appoint her to be rebukd in public next Lord's Day and absolved.

Concluded with prayer, Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 6th February 1757

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, John Templetoun & Andrew Hodge.

Compeared Katherine Goldie & desired the Session would take the proper steps toward her being absolved from the scandal under which she lies with George Murray which they agreed to & appointed her to appear in order to be rebuked on Sabbath first in the forenoon.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 10th March 1757

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator & all the members when Katherine Goldie (having been rebuked in publik in the forenoon for the first time)

waited upon the Session & expressing a deep sense of her sorrow & contrition for her sin & scandal was appointed to appear in public twice next Lord's Day to be rebuked and absolved.

Concluded with prayer. G Muir, Moderator

Cumnock 20th March 1757

Kathrine Goldie appeared twice in public & was rebuked & absolved conform to the appointment of Session in last minute.

Cumnock 1st May 1757

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator & all the members.

Compeared Sarah McGill, daughter of James McGill, fidler in Cumnock. She being interrogate as to the truth of a report of her being with child acknowledged herself to be so, and accused James Welsh, farrier in Cumnock as the father. After being rebuked & exhorted to repentance she was cited apud acta to compear next Lord's Dat when the Session ordered their officer to summond James Welsh to compear.

Concluded with prayer. G. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 8th May 1757

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except Alexander Johnstoun.

Compeared James Welsh & Sarah McGill when he acknowledged his having been guilty with her but as he has heard a bad character of her declared he would not take with the child, upon which the Session removed him and interrogate her herself when he should have been guilty with her who declared that it was about the end of January O.S. The said James being again called and interrogate as above he declared he was guilty with her about the 19th or 20th February N.S. upon which they were exhorted, rebuked & dismissed till they should apply to be absolved conform to the rules of the Church.

Cumnock 31st July 1757

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templeton, Andrew Hodge & John Vallance when they were unanimously of opinion that Sabbath the 28th of October next would be the most convenient day for having the Lord's Supper administered to the Congregation & therefor agreed it should be fixed to that day & that the same should be intimate from the pulpit this day after sermon in the forenoon (which was done).

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 23rd October 1757

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templeton, William Smith, George Murdoch and John Vallance.

Compeared without citation Margaret Hodge daughter of the deceased William Hodge in Cumnock & judicially acknowledged she was with child to James Clannie, son of William Clannie in Ochiltree. The Moderator cited her to compear apud acta before the Session the next Lord's Day and appointed the officer to cite the said James Clannie to compear at that dyet.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 30th October 1757

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun & John Templeton.

James Clannie called compeared, Margaret Hodge compeared not. The said James Clannie interrogate acknowledged guilt with the said Margaret Hodge, whereupon he was rebuked & exhorted.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator

Cumnock 4th December 1757

Upon her application the Session appointed Margaret Hodge to appear in public this day forr the first time & be rebuked – which done accordingly.

Cumnock 11th December 1757

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templeton, George Murdoch, John Vallance & William Smith, members.

This day Margaret Hodge having been rebuked for the second time in public was called before the Session compeared & being examined & exhorted was appointed to be rebuked & exhorted & absolved the next Lord's Day.

Concluded with prayer.

Which was done accordingly – G Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 19th March 1758

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templeton, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge & John Vallance & William Smith, Members.

William Thomson & Elizabeth McGawn compeared & being interrogate with regard to a report of their being married, & indecent behaviour, the former they both denied to be true and as to the other part of the accusation the Session allowed them till Sunday next to consider their answer & they were both cited apud acta to compear against that day.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator

Cumnock 26th March 1758

The Session met after prayer. Sederunt the Moderator & all the members ut supra.

William Thomson & Elizabeth McGaun compeared & continued to deny any indecent behaviour & the Session having no proof on that head dismissed them.

The Session at a former meeting having in consequence of an application from Hugh Good taken his affair again into consideration did then refer the whole to the Presbytery for advice & appointed their Moderator & William Smith Presbytery Elder to lay an extract of the proof before the Presbytery at their meeting the 22nd instant and to report.

They accordingly report that the Presbytery after hearing the proof read & the different circumstances of the case both as presented by them & by the Minister of Auchinleck where the crime was alledged to have been committed were of an opinion that nothing was proven against the said Hugh Good and therefore advised the Session of Cumnock to absolve him.

The Session on consequence of the above advice did & hereby do absolve the said Hugh Good from this scandal to which this process has respect which sentence was intimate to him accordingly.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 21st May 1758

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the the moderator & all the members.

Compeared Angus McIntosh, Excise Officer in Cumnock in consequence of a message to that effect to whom it was represented by the Moderator that he could not baptise his child untill a report of his having gone into a practice of revelling and drunkenness some time ago was enquired into & Mr McIntosh having been interrogate as to that he acknowledged the truth of it, expressed his sorrow for it & resolution against it in all time coming. Upon which the Session appointed him to be rebuked by the Moderator & the rebuke to be intimate to the Congregation this forenoon in order to having the child baptised in the afternoon – which was accordingly done.

Concluded with praayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 9th July 1758

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator & all the members.

The unanimously agreed to have the Lord's Supper dispensed in the Congregation on Sabbath the 6th August next & appointed the same to be intimate to the Congregation.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 26th July 1758

The Session met and after prayer.

Sederunt ut supra.

They had the Roll of Communicants read over in their hearing & agreed to spend the rest of that Sederunt in prayer. Accordingly he following members prayer – Andrew Hodge, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templeton, John Vallance.

Cumnock 24th September 1758

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt ut supra.

William Thomson & Elizabeth McGawn both in Cumnock, he ultroneously and she upon a citation for that purpose – when the

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Said Elizabeth McGawn produced a certificate of their having been privately married at Glasgow the 3rd of January last by one Smith who calls himself a Minister of the Gospel which certificate is subscribed by him and two witnesses. The Session appointed the Moderator ti ask them if they adhered to the said marriage which he did and they both judicially aadhered to it whereupon they were declared married persons, were sessionaly rebuked for the irregularity of it, were exhorted & dismissed.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 16th November 1758

The Session met and after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, alexander Johnstoun, Andrew Hodge, John Templeton & William Smith when they unanimously made choice of Francis Anderson schoolmaster as their Clerk and administered to him the Oath De Fideli Administratione whereupon the books belonging to the Session were put in his hands.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 21st November 1758

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, Andrew Hodge, John Templeton & William Smith.

Compeared ultroneously James Welsh smith & farrier in Cumnock and desired to be taken on the public profession of repentance for his sin of fornication with Sarah McGill according to a former minute to which the Session agreed & appointed him to compear before the Congregation this day in the forenoon & to be rebuked pro primo. They ordered im to wait on the Session after sermons.

Concluded with prayer.

Eodem Die post meridiem.

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt ut supra together with George Murdoch and John Vallance.

Compeared the above James Welsh (who was publicly rebuked in the forenoon) and begged the Session would for a reason he told them allow him to be twice rebuked & absolved next Lord's Day – which desire in his circumstances they complied with and ordained accordingly.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 18th December 1758

The Session met being Sabbath morning after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Andrew Hodge & John Templeton, Elders.

Compeared ultroneously George Murray in Cumnock now soldier in General Holmes' Regiment and desired he might be taken on the profession of his repentance for the sin of fornication with Katherine Goldie as mentioned in former minutes – which the session granted & appointed him to be rebuked in public this day pro primo & to wait on the Session after sermon.

Concluded with prayer.

Eodem die post meridiem.

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt ut supra together with Alexander Johnston & John Vallance.

Compeared the said George Murray who was publicly rebuked in the forenoon and begged that as he was obliged to repair to the Regiment in a few days in case he should be in the place on Sabbath next he might be rebuked twice, or f these should be but one dyet because of the shortness of the day,

once, & absolved – which the Session having considered agreed to in his circumstances & ordained accordingly. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock July 4th 1759

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator & all the members except John Vallance unanimously agreed to have the Lord's Supper dispensed in the Congregation on Sabbath the 12th of August next & appointed the same to be intimate next Lord's Day. G. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 19th November 1759

Date duplicated in the next entry – plus there is a note in the margin "NB. The minutes from this 19th Nov 1759 to April 6th inclusive were taken down in Mr Muir's absence when at Edinburgh for his health."

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr George Ballantine Minister being Moderator. Alexander Johnston, John Templeton, Andrew Hodge, William Smith & John Vallance Members.

This day Jean Fergusson being cited compeared acknowledged herself guilty of the sin of fornication with

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Archibald Wilson. Having cited Archibald Wilson he compeared and acknowledged himself guilty with her. After being admonished by the Moderator & told the greatness of the guilt & scandal & exhorted to beg of Gog forgiveness and sincere repentance the Session appointed her to make an appearance next Lord's Day to be rebuked.

Cumnock 19th November 1759

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Campbell Minister of Rickartoun being Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, John Templeton, John Vallance and Andrew Hodge Members.

Alexander Johnston receiving a letter from Mr Dun Minister of Auchinleck desiring the Session to cause cite Mr James Stillie before the Session of Auchinleck against next Lord's Day being the 11th instant which they accordingly agreed to do.

As also they being informed that Jean Fergusson in Cumnock was with child in fornication appointed her to be cited against Sunday Fourthnight.

Cumnock December 3rd 1759

According to appointment of Session Jean Fergusson made her appearance & was rebuked & exhorted to sincere repentance.

Cumnock December 31st 1759

The said Jean Fergusson made her appearance for the second time this day & was exhorted to repentance.

Cumnock 27th January 1760

Session constitute after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Hunter Minister of Kirconnel, William Smith, John Vallance, John Templeton & Andrew Hodge, Members.

Andrew Hodge & John Templeton told the Session that upon a fama clamosa that Sarah McKirrol servant to John Duncan was with child in fornication, they ordered her to be examined by persons of skill who affirmed that she was with child tho she herself continued still to deny it & therefore the Session ordered her to (be) summoned to appear before the Session against Sunday Forthnight.

Concluded with prayer

Cumnock February 1760

Session met after a prayer.

Sederunt Mr Young Minister of New Cumnock, William Smith, John Vallance, John Templeton & Andrew Hodge Members at which time some of the members told they were informed that Sarah McKirrol had left the town & gone to New Cumnock.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock April 6th 1760

The Session (met) after prayer.

Sederunt Mr Reid in Ochiltrey, Alexander Johnstoun, John Vallance, William Smith, John Templeton & Andrew Hodge Members.

Agnes Hunter called compeared & being interrogate acknowledged she was with child to Hugh McKirrow in the parish of Sorn & being exhorted to beg of God sincere repentance for her sin against God and against his people was dismissed. The Session appointed Alexander Johnston to write to Mr Connel Minister at Sorn to cause cite him to compear before our Session the 3rd Sunday of April.

Sarah McKirrol called compeared acknowledged that she had born a child to Hugh Mitchel of Waterhead in the Parish of New Cumnock was exhorted to repentance & dismissed. The Session likewise appointed Alexander Johnstoun to write Mr Young Minister of New Cumnock to cause cite him to compear before our Session on the said 3rd Sunday of Aprile.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock April 27th 1760

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Moderator and all the elders.

Compeared utroneously Alexander Mcrone, weaver in Langhouse & being interrogate as to a charge laid against him before the Session of Auchinleck by Helen Morton daughter of the deceased Robert Morton in Broom in that parish of his being the father of a child she has brought forth in uncleanness. He judicially acknowledged the truth of the charge, expressed his sorrow for it & begged the Session would take him immediately upon the profession of his repentance. – Alexander Mcrone.

Compeared ultroneously Sarah McKirrol mentioned in last minute & adhered to her former declaration but in regard that the (page damaged – unreadable)

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Lord's Day Hugh Mitchel was not called & therefore the Session appoint their Clerk to write to the Session of New Cumnock to cause cite him before this Session this day fourthnight the eleventh of May when she was summoned apud acta to be present.

Compreared ultroneously Jean Fergusson natural daughter of John Fergusson messenger in Cumnock, mentioned in minute 19th of November last & craved to be absolved from the scandal acknowledged that minute & for which she has been publicly rebuked two several times. The Session previous to their granting her request thought it proper to call Archibald Wilson, servant to William Campbell, merchant in Cumnock whom she delated as the father of her child & who according to that minute acknowledged the charge & therefore appointed their Clerk to cause cite him to appear before this Session this day fourthnight when she was summoned apud acta to be present.

The Session appoint their Clerk to write to the Session of Sorn desiring them to cause their officer summon Hugh McKirrol pro secundo to compear before this Session the said eleventh og May & ordered their officer to summon Agnes Hunter daughter of the deceased Adam Hunter in Barshare who charges the said Hugh McKirrol as the father of her child to that diet.

The Session appointed the before named Alexander McCrone according to his desire to be rebuked publicly next Lord's Day in the forenoon.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 2nd May 1760

The Session met being called pro re nata.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnstoun, & Andrew Hodge.

Cpompeared ultroneously Archibald Wilson mentioned in last minute & adhered to his former acknowledgement of his being father of the said Jean Fergusson's child. He begged the Session would pass from their order mentioned in last minute & take him immediately upon the profession of his repentance. (signed) Archibald Wilson.

The Session granted the above request and appointed him to be rebuked for the first time in public next Sabbath forenoon he having expressed a sense of sorrow for his sin & been sessionally rebuked & exhorted & in regard to particular circumstances whereof the Session was satisfied. The according

to his desire appointed him to be twice rebuked & absolved on Sabbath fourthnight the eighteenth instant.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

(It appears that the Session Clerk has changed over hear, although the last Clerk – Francis Anderson – was appointed in November 1758.)

Cumnock 3^d May 1760

The Session met ut supra after prayer.

Compeared Andrew Campbell, groom at Leifnorris, and Elizabeth Key late servant there. They produced marriage lines dated at Edinburgh 11th Dec 1758 subscribed by one John Grierson minister, themselves and two witnesses, bearing that they were then & there duly married. They adhered to their said marriage were rebuked for the irregularity of it exhorted and dismissed.

Concluded with prayer, Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 11th May 1760

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Moderator, Alexander Johnston, John Templeton and William Smith, Elders and Jaohn Vallance, Deacon.

Alexander Mcrone having been rebuked in public this day for second time, called, compeared, gave such evidence of his repentance as satisfied the Session, was exhorted and appointed to be rebuked for third time nixt Lords day and absolved.

Agnes Hunter and Hugh McKirrow called compeared – she adheared to her former declaration of his being the father of her child and he judiciously acknowledged the truth of the charge. (signed) Hugh Mekrou.

They were rebuked exhorted and dismissed.

Sarah McKirrow & Hugh Mitchel called compeared – she adheard to the former accusation of him as the father of her child, which accusation he being judiciously interrogate denyes. She being interrogate when and where the guilt should have been committed declared it was on the last Wednesday of May 1759 being the May Fair under cloud of night in James Drummond's Taylor in Cumnock. He being asked denied guilt with her then or since but acknowledged that day and place mentioned he sent for her and was with her a little, his mind being to fee her for a servant and declaired that he remembers not if they were alone or if James Dummond's wife was with them & that it was in the day time. (Signed) Hugh Mitchell

She desired that Jean Mitchell spouse to James Drummond might be examined as to the time of day when they were together in her house and whither they were alone... (page damaged)... ordered their officer to summon said Jean Mitchell

To the Session on Thursday next at the Manse. The parties were summoned apud acta & exhorted.
Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 15th May 1760

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Moderator, Alexander Johnston, Andrew Hodge and John Templeton, Elders.

Compeared Hugh Mitchel and Sarah McKirrow. When being interrogate she adhered to her accusation of Hugh Mitchel as the father of her child and he being interrogate likewise continued to deny his having had any carnal dealings with her the time condescended on or since.

Jean Mitchel spouse to James Drummond call'd compeared aged above thirty, purged of partial couse declar'd that on the May Fair 1759 Hugh Mitchel caus'd her bring Sarah McKirrol to him in order to fee her. That the said Sarah came and was with him alone in a room for some time. Being ask'd how long she said not above an hour, being ask'd what time of day, said it was in daylight when they neither had nor needed a candle. But being ask'd if there was a bed or fire in the room said there was neither, which circumstance both Hugh Mitchel & Sarah McKirrow contradicted and declar'd it was a bed and fire room. She declar'd she could not write. Geo Muir, Moderator.

The said Sarah was ask'd if she had told Mr Mitchel of her being with child. She declar'd she did in Bethia Duncan's sp=ometime in winter and that he bad her denye it. He being interrogate denyed that ever he was in company with her in winter or since the said May Fair and consequently that she ever told him of her pregnancy. She being interrogate as to further presumptions said that about New Year day he call'd for her at John Duncan's and that she went with him when he again bad her goe out of the way and not accuse him. Being further ask'd she said he then gave her a note* not to accuse him, but knows not the value of it and says she has it by her all which he absolutely deny's. The former of these circumstances she offers to prove by Bethia Duncan and Isobel Crichton her daughter and the second by Janet Crawford in Cumnock and William Crichton, Merchant there. The Session appointed both parties to attend the Session at the Manse this day fortnight and ordered their officer to summon the said witnesses. Geo Muir, Moderator.

**a note – a bank note/money rather than a letter*

Cumnock 18th May 1760

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Moderator, and all the members except George Murdoch.

Compeared utroneously Agnes Hunter and begged she might be taken upon the profession of her repentance for her sin of fornication with Hugh McKirrow as in former minutes, which the Session considering agreed to & appointed her to be rebuked in public for first time this day fortnight.

This day Alexander Mcrone was rebuked for the third time in public and Jean Ferguson for the third time and both absolved.

Compeared ultoneously Hugh Mitchel who declar'd that upon recollection he remembers he was with Sarah mckirrol in Bethia Duncan's one day in winter last but deny's that she then told him she was with child to him and being ask'd what business he had with her he refused to make answer till the woman was present. He says it was the Thursday after Martinmas Thursday. (signed) Hugh Mitchell

The Session in regard Sarah McKirrol was absent, continued their former appointment of meeting on Thursday se'enight and examining the witnesses for her notwithstanding the above acknowledgment.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 29th May 1760

The Session met according to appointment of 15th instant after prayer.

Sederunt Moderator, Andrew Hodge and John Templeton, Elders.

Compeared Hugh Mitchel, Sarah McKirrol called did not compear. The Session notwithstanding Sarah's non-compearance agreed to examine the witnesses according to her former desire, especially as it might be inconvenient for Mr Mitchel to attend an other diet for that purpose.

Bethia Duncan called compeared, aged above forty, a widow, purged of partial counsel & malice declared that the day when Hugh Mitchell and Sarah McKirrol were in her house, he desired the declarant to go and fetch the said Sarah to him which she refused to do and told him she knew no good but ill he could have to do with her. Being interrogate if they were by themselves alone declared they were only a little. Being askd if she knew whither Sarah McKirrol told him of her pregnancy said she knew not, only that after Sarah was gone Hugh Mitchel said to the declarant that Sarah McKirrol was with child and upon the decalrant alleging that perhaps he knew best about that he said he knew nothing about it at this time, but he had known her about two years before that. Being interrogate the declarant says by his saying he had known her she understood his having carnal dealings with her. Declares she cannot write. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Isobel Crichton, daughter to the said Bethia Duncan aged about sixteen unmarried, purged of partial counsel & malice declard the she knew nothing farther about that matter but only that Hugh Mitchel & Sarah McKirrol were together alone in her mother's house one day last winter. Declares she cannot write. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Jannet Crawford called compeared aged about 26 unmarried purged of partial counsel and malice declares that on the Friday after New Year day Thursday at night as she and Sarah McKirrol were coming home from the town to John Duncan's house a man passd them who she thought was **dust (just?)** like the said Hugh Mitchel, that when Sarah made as if she would have spoke to him the declarant hinderd her and brought her home. That sometime after she decalrant heard the door of John Duncan's house open softly and rising to see what it was saw Sarah McKirrol & a man go from

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the door hastily, that she tought it was the same man Sarah and her met coming from the town, that she calld Sarah to return, who said it was one of the wrights & begd leave to go out a little which the declarant refused. That a little after Sarah went out & stayed an hour & a half and upon her return said she had been in John Fergusons & drank a dram with Hugh Mitchel of Waterhead. (signed) Janet Crawford.

The session after considering the whole circumstances of this affair find from Hugh Mitchels confession together with Jean Mitchels declaration that he and Sarah McKirrol were together alone on the day and in the place when the guilt should have been committed, the find, notwithstanding his positivly denying on the 15th instant that he ever had been in company with said Sarah during her pregnancy, from his own declaration 18th May and from the declarations of Bethia Duncan & Isabel Crichton that they were together in said Bethia's house. They find from the declarations of said Bethia

Duncan and Isobel Crichton that Hugh Mitchel & Sarah McKirrol were at that time, tho but for a little, by themselves alone. They find from Behtia's declaration a presumption that Hugh Mitchel then knew of Sarah's pregnancy and that he had had criminal correspondence with her two years before and from Jannet Crawfords declaration the Session find a presumption, though considerably weaker than the former, that Hugh Mitchel had been in company with Sarah McKirrol on the Fryday after New Year day Thursday (all under cloud of night). In reasepect of all which the Session determined to let the affair ly over until in providencesome further light be casr upon it, meantime impowered their Moderator at his convenience to lay an extract of this process before the presby of Ayr for advice.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator

Cumnock 21st June 1760

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Moderator, Andrew Hodge and Alexander Johnston, Elders.

James French, fidler in Cumnock was by order of the Session summoned to this diet upon a report of his having upon Wednesday the 12th instant got himself drunk, and in his drunkenness, been guilty of a most inhuman slander and riot, by accusing Margaret Baird his spouse of the crime of adultery, and beating her with his hands on the head, and tearing out her hair to the manifest prejudice of her quiet and safety, as well as to the great dishonour of the Christian profession.

He the said James French being call'd compeared and upon hearing the above report and being interrogate, he acknowledged the truth of the whole, expressd his deep sorrow for having causlessly defamed his wife's character, beat her with such barbarous cruelty, and thereby given offence to the congregation. He declared the whole to have been in the effect of drink, and promise to be particularly on his guard against drinking to excess, and other misbehaviour in time to come – and he beggd the Session would for once take his word for his future conduct and not expose him to the public censure his crimes deserve (signed) James French.

The Session having considered the above report, acknowledgement & exprest appointed their moderator to rebuke and exhort him in their presence which was done – and without absolving him from the scandal were determined that his admission to any church priviledge he may afterwards ask shall absolutely depend upon the evidence of his repentance he gives by his future behaviour.

The Session agreed to dispense with his being subjected to public censure; yet considering the guilt and danger of such a practice, and having reason to fear that others in the congregation may have been chargeable with the same crimes thy appointed their Moderator to read the following intimation from the pulpit next Lords Day and to back it with suitable exhortations.

“That a certain member of this congregation was solemnly rebuked in the Session for the crime of drunkenness, slander and riot, committed against one who gave no ground of offence. That the Session did not pass from a public rebuke because they thought the crimes unworthy of it, for they hereby testify their deep sense of how heignous and how provocking each of the alone is, much more when taken together; but passed from it because of the seeming penitence of the delinquent and most serious promise, which stands subscribed in their records, of a regular decent and sober behaviour in time to come & that they are sensible how much a laxness in the exercise of discipline may have contributed toward the encouragement of these and other branches of immorality with which particular persons under their care may be chargeable. That they are determined in a dependence upon Grace henceforth to subject any who may be convicted of such or other misdemeanours to the censure appointed by the church as one mean of reclaiming them and as a lesson to others who thro' neglect of such needful exercise of discipline might fall into the same snares. And that none convicted of such abuses shall for the future be admitted to any church

privilege untill they submit to what censure their crimes may be judged worthy of, and to the conviction of the Session make suitable expressions of their repentance.”

The Session concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 13th July 1760

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Moderator and all the members except George Murdoch.

Compeared Hugh McKirrol in the parish of Sorn and begd to be taken upon the profession of his repentance for the sin of fornication with Agnes Hunter in Cumnock, as by former minute; He was examind exhorted & rebuked and the Session, satisfied with his knowledge and expressions of repentance granted his desire, appointing him to be rebuked pro primo in public next Lords day.

It was then orderd to be recorded that said Agnes Hunter was rebuked publicly three several sabbath's and absolvd last Lords day.

The Session made choice of Alexander Johnston as presbytery Elder during the present interval of the Synod.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

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Cumnock 10th August 1760

The Session met before sermon pro re nata.

Sederunt Moderator and all the members except George Murdoch.

The Moderator proposed that the Lords Supper should be dispensed in this Congregation this day four weeks, the first Sabbath and seventh day of September nixt; and that it should be intimated this day in public. The session taking this under their serious consideration unanimously agreed to the proposal and appointed accordingly.

It was ordered to be recorded that Hugh McKirrol was last Lords day rebuked for third time and absolved.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 20th August 1760

The Session met, ut supra, according to former appointment, for prayer as usual before the celebration of the Lords Supper, when the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, Andrew Hodge and John Templeton prayed. Geo Muir, Moderator

Cumnock 28th September 1760

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Moderator, Alexander Johnston, Andrew Hodge, John Templeton, Elders & John Vallance, deacon.

The officer reported that, according to a former order, he had summonsd Agnes Paton in Craighs personally apprehended ?? George Murdoch tennant in Craighs and (*blank space, but the name is Isabel*) Wilson, spouse to John White, baker in Cumnock to compear this day before the Session to answer to a report of her being with child in fornication. When the officer was about to call her at the most patent door of the church as usual, Alexander Johnston informed the Session that she had sent an ?? to him and desired he would tell them she could not compear thro' indisposition. The Session therefore dispensd with her being calld in common form, and appointed their officer to cite her pro secundo to compear before them nixt Sabbath after sermon, directing him to give her a written summons, bearing the cause of her being summonsd and the names and designations of the two witnesses before whom it shall be delivered. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 5th October 1760

The Session met ut supra, together with William Smith Elder, after prayer.

The Officer reported that he summoned Agnes Paton pro secundo personally apprehended and according to the above directions. She was accordingly calld and compeard. Being interrogate as to the report of her being with child she acknowledged they truth of the report. Being askd who was the father of her child and exhorted to be ingenuous she declared it was Hugh Good Merchant in Cumnock and that the child was begot between Cumnock New Year Thursday, and Mauchline Candlemas fair last. She declares she cannot write. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

The Session summonsd Agnes Paton apud acta to compear before them next Lords day and appointed their officer to summon the said Hugh Good to that diet directing him to give a written summons bearing the cause and the names and designations of the two witnesses before whom it shall be delivered. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock October 12th 1760

The Session met ut supra after prayer.

The Officer reported that he had summoned Hugh Good according to order, when he and Agnes Paton both being called bothe compeared. She adhered to her former accusation of Hugh Good and he being interrogate judiciously denied that he was the father of her child or had ever any carnal knowledge of her. (Signed) Hugh Good.

Agnes Paton was further interrogate as to any presumptions she could offer when she added that Hugh Good had twice carnal dealings with her within the time mentioned in her last declaration in his own room and bed in Cumnock and that the last of these times was on the Tuesday of that week of Mauchline Candlemass Fair. She further added that he had a like criminal correspondence with her twice after Candlemass in his own stable one of the times about ten days after Candlemass and the other the first Thursday of March. She further added that she frequently told him of her apprehensions that she was with child and says that he was surprised and vexed when she told him.

The said Hugh Good being interrogate denies every one of the above circumstances viz that ever he & the said Agnes Paton were in his room by themselves or in his stable & that ever she told him or was asked by him concerning her pregnancy. (signed) Hugh Good Geo Muir, Moderator.

Agnes Paton offers to prove the first of these circumstances viz that she had been frequently with Hugh Good in his room alone by William Crichton, merchant in Cumnock & Janet Fergusson his wife & adds that they were together

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upon his own stair one night between nine and ten which Hugh Good denies & which she says John McNaught, merchant in Cumnock saw.

The Session upon her desire ordered their officer to cite the said William Crichton, Janet Fergusson & John McNaught as witnesses to the effect foresaid to the Session to meet at the Manse tomorrow fourtnight at three o'clock when the parties were summoned apud acta to compear.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Maderator.

Cumnock 23rd November 1760

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except George Murdoch.

Compeared the foresaid Agnes Paton and craved that, as her inlying made it impossible to for her to attend the diet for examining the witnesses appointed by last minute, (which was the reason the Session did not then meet) another day might be appointed, and diligence for summoning Hugh Good and the forsaid witnesses granted. The Session did accordingly agree to meet at the manse tomorrow ?? the 1st of December at three in the afternoon for that purpose, and, citing her from the bar, ordered their officer to cite Hugh Good as a party, William Crichton, Jannet Fergusson and John McNaught as witnesses to compear before them time and place forsaid.

The Session made choice of William Smith as presbytery Elder untill the Synod in Aprile.

They agreed upon having the Lords Supper dispensed in the Congregation this day four weeks the 21st of December nixt and appointed their Moderator to intimate the same nixt Lords day to the Congregation.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 1st December 1760

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, John Templeton & Andrew Hodge, Elders.

Compeared Hugh Good & Agnes Paton when she continued to accuse and he to deny as before. She insisted upon having the witnesses examined upon the presumptions she offered to prove accordingly.

William Crichton compeared, married, aged thirty two purged of partial counsel declares that to the best of his remembrance he never saw Hugh Good and Agnes Paton in Hugh's room by themselves. (signed) William Crichten. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Jannet Fergusson calld compeared married aged about thirty seven purged of partial counsel declares that to the best of her remembrance she never saw Hugh and Agnes alone in his room. (Jannet Fergusson's mark) Geo Muir, Moderator.

John McNaught the other witness did not compear but sent an excuse which was accepted.

The Session finds the said Agnes Paton has fail'd in her proving the circumstance she proposed to prove by these witnesses and as she offerd no other presumption against the forementioned Hugh Good, they agreed to delay proceeding further in this process untill providence may cast light upon the affair.

Concluded with prayer. G Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 14th December 1760

The Session met before sermon after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, Andrew Hodge and John Vallance.

Compeared ultroneously Margt Philp (Margaret Philip) spouse to John Watt Mason at Dumfries House. She acknowledged the sin of antenuptial fornication with her said husband (who was formerly rebuked publicly and absolved, tho' by a neglect of the clerk, was not taken down in the minutes) and cravd the Session might take the proper steps toward her absolution.

Compeared likeways William Brown late servant to John Sutherland merchant in Cumnock and acknowledged the like crime of antenuptial fornication with Mary Gaute his spouse and made the same request to the Session.

The Session considering both these cases orderd both the said Margt Philp and William Brown to be rebuked in publick this day and absolved – which was done.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator,

Cumnock 15th December 1760

The Session met as usual before the Communion for prayer, when the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, John Templeton and John Vallance prayed. Geo Muir.

Cumnock 28th December 1760

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except George Murdoch.

Compeared ultroneously Elizabeth Rennie spouse to William Marshal in Little Sykeside and entered a complaint against James Weir in Blackfauld for having calumnated her good name by saying on one of the days of November last or this

month that she had stole or unlawfully abstracted some money out of James Wells house, taylor in Cumnock and begged the Session would enquire into that affair in order to her character being cleared as she cannot bear to ly under the imputation of such a crime and was on the report of it refused admission to the Lord's table last sabbath.

The Session found her desire reasonable and therefore ordered the said James Weir in Blackfauld to be summoned to compear before them next Lords day, when she was cited apud acta to attend.

Compeared likeways ultroneously John Tait, wright in Cumnock and gave in a written paper containing a conversation between him and Stephen Brown, mason resider at Blair-Begg in Tweedel – wherein the said Stephen should have said that he had (being in this parish last summer and Harvest) several times been guilty with Agnes Paton, who gave her child to Hugh Good in Cumnock, and that he had given her near three pounds sterline – which paper bears that the said John Tait had that conversation with Stephen Broun upon the 14th of this month and that Stephen made payment to him that day of three pounds sterline which he owed him. The said paper containing these and other things relative to the affair of Agnes Paton was read in the Session. The Moderator gave it to John Tait askd if it was his, who answered it was, when he and the moderator both subscribed it and left it in the clerks hands.

Compeared at the same time the said Agnes Paton, having heard of the above supposed conversation between John Tait and Stephen Brown; and in order to invalidate Tait's testimony, offerd to prove by William Douglas, merchant in Cumnock, Elizabeth Douglas his daughter & James Ferguson there. The said John Tait declared upon his return from Tweedel that he did not so much as see Stephen Broun. Besides she offerd to prove by the said John Tait and Margaret Mirrey, servant to the above Hugh Good that Hugh Good had employed the said John Tait to use means to exploit a confession from her of guilt with Stephen Brown and of having received money from Stephen. Whereupon she beggd the Session would examine these witnesses upon both the above points as what she thinks the issue of her process against Hugh Good must depend on.

The Session judged her desire reasonable and therefore agreed to meet at the manse tomorrow at three in the afternoon. Summond Agnes Paton and John Tait apud acta and orderd their officer to summon the forsaid Hugh Good, William and Elizabeth Douglas, James Ferguson & Margaret Mirry to that diet.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 29th December 1760

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, John Templeton.

Calld and compeard Hugh Good and Agnes Paton when she accused & he denied as afore.

John Tate called compeared and refused to acknowledge that he had said to any person upon his return from Tweedale that he did not see Stephen Brown; upon which Agnes Paton insisted that the witnesses should be examined.

William Douglas called compeared aged above fifty, married, purged of partial council declared that upon Tuesday was eight days as John Tate returned from Tweedale before he got to his own house the declarant saw him and asked of he had seen Stephen Brown (he the said Stephen Brown having

been his lodger) to which he declares John Tate answered that he had not seen him. (signed) Will: Douglas Geo Muir, Moderator.

Elizabeth Douglas called compeared aged bout twenty unmarried purged of partial council declares that the day foresaid she went into John Tates room & asked if he had seen Stephen Brown & declares that he answered he had not seen him. (signed) Elizabeth Douglas. Geo Muir, Moderator.

James Fergusson called compeared aged about fourty married purged of partial council declares that it is like a dream to him that he heard John Tate say in Hugh McGauns since Tuesday was eight days that he had not seen Stephen Brown but declares that as he had no notion of being called to witness about it, he gave no attention. (Signed) James Fergusson Geo. Muir, Moderator

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The Moderator asked John Tate why he transacted business with Stephen Brown by receiving money from him, as his paper bears upon the fourteenth instant which was a Sabbath day, to this he reanswered that Stephen cou'd get the money no sooner & that he was obliged to leave the place that day. (Signed) John Tait. Geo Muir, Moderator.

As to the other point Hugh Good declared that he had never employed John Tate to use any means in order to extort a confession from Agnes Paton as in minute of yesterdays date.

John Tate aged about twenty unmarried, purged of partial council declared that on Friday was eight days he sent for Agnes Paton to John Lambs & told her he had seen her acquaintance Stephen Brown, who asked in what circumstances she was & desired the declarant to tell her that if she could honestly say the money which Stephen brown had given her was done he was empowered ti give her more, & accordingly showed her a twenty shilling note; upon which he declares the said Agnes Paton said she had no connection with Stephen Brown & refused the money in a passion. The declarant being asked if Stephen Vrown had given him any such commission he amswered expressly in the negative, being asked why he came to act such a part since he had no authority for doing it, he declared that it was in consequence of what Stephen Brown had acknowledged to him & from desire to have Hugh Good who was probably innocent cleared from that charge; being asked declares he told Hugh Good of the conversation that passed betwixt Stephen Brown & him & told him likewise of his intention to make a tryal of procuring an acknowledgement from Agnes Paton, but expressly declares that Hugh Good did not directly or indirectly prompt him to do it.

(signed) John Taitt Geo Muir, Moderator.

Margaret Merry called compeared aged above thirty unmarried purged of partial council declares that she knows nothing of Hugh Goods employing John Tate to deal with Agness Paton to the effect foresaid. Declares she cannot write. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Hugh Good desired that the Session would write to the Minister of the Parish to which Blair-Bog or the Wheem belongs that Stephen Brown may be examined before that Session upon the acknowledgement he shou'd have made to John Tate upon the fourteenth instant of his having been frequently guilty with Agnes Paton & having given her money to the value of near three pound sterling.

The Session agreed to the above desire & authorised their Moderator to write accordingly & they find that Agnes Paton has faild in her proof that Hugh Good should have caused John Tait to extort a

confession from her of guilt with Stephen Broun. But with regard to the said John Tait himself the Session considering

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from his own acknowledgement he had been guilty of a manifest breach of the sabbath by transacting business with Stephen Brown upon the fourteenth instant. From the declarations of William & Elizabeth Douglass that he had either been guilty of lying to them of representing the grossest falsehood to the Session with respect to his interview with Stephen Brown. And considering that from his said declaration he had deliberately told lies with a view to ensnare Agness Paton. They appointed their Moderator to rebuke him from the chair (which was done with suitable exhortations) & to intimate this rebuke in *terrorem aliorum** to the Congregation.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

**in terrorem aliorum – to the terror of others – a warning to others not to behave in a similar way.*

Cumnock 4th January 1761

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except George Murdoch.

When James Weir and Elizabeth Rennie both compeared = previous to James Weir being called to answer to Elizabeth Rennie's complaint she by the following judicial concession or declaration superceded the necessity of his being examined. "That about three years agoe after doing some business with James Wier in Cumnock she found a shilling in her pocket when she went home, more than her own, which she supposed might have been taken off James Wier's table with some money of hers that lay upon it, and accordingly upon understanding that James or his wife had lost a few shillings that day, she restored the shilling she found to him the first time she had an opportunity, but declared she knew nothing of taking it and that of the other two shillings James Wier wanted she knew nothing at all. She declared she could not write." Geo Muir, Moderator.

The Session having reason that the fama clamosa against her had taken its rise from that story judged it proper to make no further enquiry into it; to view what she did respecting the shilling as a mistake without intention; to absolve* her from the scandal; and to dismiss her complaint against the said James Weir.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 8th March 1761

The Session met after prayer.

Compeared ultroneously Mary Gault spouse to William Broun late servant to John Sutherland, Merchant in Cumnock and judicially expressed her sorrow for the offence she had given to the congregation by her antenuptial fornication, as her husband already did 14th December last. Having done so she begged the Session would take the proper steps towards her absolution.

Which having considered the Session (Viz the whole members, George Murdoch and Alexander Johnston excepted) appointed her to be rebuked in public next Lords day and absolved. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 12th March 1761

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston and John Templeton Elders.

Compeared Mathew Pen, gardner at Leifnorris and Margaret Smith, daughter of William Smith tennant in Pennyfaideoch Miln (they having been desired to wait on this diet of the Session) and produced lines dated at Kilmarnock October 1st 1759 subscribed by one Thomas McLean Minister and two witnesses, bearing that the saids Mathew Pen and Margaret Smith were then married by him. They both judicially adhered to their said marriage, were rebuked for the irregularity of it and dismissed.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 29th March 1761

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator & all the members except Andrew Hodge and George Murdoch.

Compeared William Main, collier, who having been refused church priviledges upon a report of his being guilty of habitual drunkenness & particularly of his frequently being found drunk on the Sabbath mornings was ordered to attend this Diet to answer to that accusation, he being interrogate acknowledged the truth of the above report, expressed his sorrow for it & resolution against it in all time coming. (Signed) William Meen

The Session appointed him to be rebuked at their Bar which was don by the Moderator & recommended it to the Minister to put him in mind of this rebuke & his promise publicly when

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He baptised his child next Lords day.

Compeared Helen Moody, spouse to James Lauder, coachman at Leifnorris & complained on Margaret Hanna spouse to Alexandter Creichton in Cumnock for having called her on the twenty fifth instant an adulterous whore as also Hugh Cochrane by a petition dated the 27th instant complaining upon the said Margaret Hanna for having on the same day called him an adulterous scoundrel which petition subscribed by the said Hugh Cochrane beares that Bessy Thomson, Janet Caldwell, the said Alexander Creichton and Alexander Good, son to the said Bessy Thomson were witnesses & Helen Moody craved the Session might bring the said Margaret Hanna to due censure for slandering her good name. (Signed) HM – her mark. Geo Muir, Moderator.

The Session complied with the above petition & agreed to meet at the Manse onnFridat next at eleven o'clock for enquiring into that affair & appointed their officer to cite Margaret Hanna & the said witnesses to that Diet when Helen Moody was ordered to attend.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 3rd April 1761

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, Andrew Hodge and John Templeton, Elders.

When, being called, Helen Moody and Margaret Hannah both compeared. Andrew Hodge who was absent last meeting of Session proposed that previous to the Sessions taking any steps towards the vindication of Mrs Lauders character she should, by proper Testimonials, give evidence of her good character when she came to this parish in June 1759, which the Session judged reasonable and therefore askd her if she had any such Testimonials who answered she had not but promised she would have no difficulty in obtaining them from the toun an Cannongate of Edinburgh where she lived for about eight or more years immediately before her coming here. At the same time, unwilling to give the Session any further trouble and decisions to prevent a great deal of talking in the place which aparticular proof in her affair might occasion to the prejudice of her family peace, however innocent of the crime Margaret Hanna laid to her charge; from these considerations, she did judicially withdraw her said complaint against Margaret Hanna and beggd the Session might dismiss the process. (Signed MH – her mark)

He Session agreeavble to the above renunciation and desire did accept of the former and grant the latter. Partys being calld Margaret Hanna was exhorted to guard against any further ill usage of Helen Moodie – and Helen Moddie on the other hand to guard against everything in her conduct which might lay a foundation for unfavourable reflections. When, the Session dismissed this process, reserving a liberty of enquiring into the truth of what Margaret Hannah should have alleged against Helen Moodie if they shall see cause. With regard to the petition subscribed by Hugh Cochrane mentioned in the minute of last diet as he neither compeared in person or by proxy, then, nor this day the Session likeways dismissd the process as to him and assoilied Margaret Hannah from the complaint both at his instance and Helen Moodie's.

The Session concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator

Cumnock 5th April 1761

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except George Murdoch.

The Moderator represented to the Session that he had yesterday baptized William Mains child tho' the profession of Agnes Mathison his spouse. Because he had been certainly informed that the said William Main notwithstanding his profession and promise in the minute of last Lord's day 29th March, was drinking in this toun the whole of the night between Thursday and Friday last, and in consequence of it was excessively drunk. Wherefore the Session ordered their officer to summon the said William Main to compear before them the nixt Lord's day. Geo Muir, Moderator.

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Cumnock 12th Aprile 1761

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator. Alexander Johnston, John Templeton and William Smith, Elders.

Compeared William Main mentioned in last minute who being interrogete judicially acknowledged the truth of what the Session heard of his having been drunk in Cumnock on the night mentioned in last minute, he again professed sorrow fir it and promised that through Grace he would guard against that fault in time to come. (signed) William Meen

The Session in consequence of the above acknowledgement appoint their Moderator to rebuke him at their Bar (which was done with suitable exhortations) & to intimate the rebuke to the Congregation next Sabbath resolving at the same time that his being admitted to Church priviledges shall depend on his future behaviour..

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Miur, Moderator.

Cumnock 10th May 1761

The Session met before sermon after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders except George Murdoch.

When the minister proposed to them tge third Sabbath and 21st of June nixt as a prayer day for dispensing the Lords Supper in the Congregation, to which the Session agreed and appointed intimation thereof to be made accordingly.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 7th June 1761

The Session met before sermon after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston, William Smith, Andrew Hodge, John Templeton Elders.

When they nominate the following persons to be Elders in the Congregation viz: Alexander McKirrow in Hayholm, James Russell in Gelt, James Rankine in Milleoch, John Russell in Auchingibbert. John McGeehan in Aysyard & Hugh McGeehan merchant in Cumnock, ordered their edict to be servied today and appointed then to be ordained and admitted on Friday the 19th instant.

Concluded with prayer. Ge Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 9th June 1761

The Session met as usual before the Communion fo prayer, when the Moderator, Andrew Hodge and William Smith prayed. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 19th June 1761

The Session met according to their appointment of the 7th instant and after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Johnston and Andrew Hodge, Elders.

They ordered their officer to call at the most patent door of the church if any person or persons had any objections to offer why Alexander McKirrow, James Russell, James Rankine, John Russell, John McGechan or Hugh McGechan may not be ordained Elders in the Congregation. They may repair to the Session just now for that purpose.

The officer reported he had done according to order and that no objections were offered.

The Session adjourned to the Church where after sermon from Ephesians ! Ch. 22nd verse Alexander McKirrol, James Russell, John and Hugh McGeachins compeared and in the face of the Congregation answered the questions usually put in the affirmative whereupon they were set apaprt to the Office of Elders in the Congregation by prayer.

After dismissing the Congregation the others members of the Session being present these four now ordained were by appointment added to the Roll, received the Right Hand of Fellowship from their brethren & took their seats accordingly.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

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Cumnock 12th July 1761

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Andrew Hodge, William Smith, Alexander McKirrow, James Russell, John & McGeachins, Elders.

The Moderator reports that according to the Session's appointment of the 29th of December last, he wrote to the Misinster of the Parish where Stephen Brown resides & that he only received Mr Dickinson's answer yesterday by Stephen himself who now compears ultroneously to answer to the aledgeance exhibited against him on the 28th of December last in the process at the instance of Agnes Paton against Hugh Good.

The Session willing to have had Hugh Good present as there was no time for calling him by summons sent their officer once & again to his house but not finding him at & Stephen Brown insisting upon his being allowed to exoner(ate) himself of what John Tate laid to his charge the admitted him to be examined upon that head & being interrogate as to the particulars of John Tate's declaration declares that no conversation passed between them about Agnes Paton at all. Declares that he never had any criminal conversation with her nor gave her money as John Tate alleged. (signed) Stephen Brown.

To which declaration Agnes Paton who was sent for to hear him examined at his own desire adhered & continued judicially to accuse Hugh Good as the only father of her child.

Cumnock October 26th 1761

This day Hugh McGeachin was chosen Presbytery Elder for the ensuing half year.

Cumnock January 14th 1762

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, Alexander McKirrow, James Russel, John McGeachin Elders.

Compeared utroneously Hugh Brown, weaver in Bridgend & Elizabeth Kay his spouse, they judicially acknowledge the sin of antenuptial fornication. Declared their sorrow for it & begged the Session would take speedy steps towards their absolution.

The Session accordingly rebuked & exhorted them & appointed them to be rebuked in public next Lords Day & to be absolved in communi forma*.

The Session agreed that the Lords Supper should be dispensed in this Congregation on Sabbath the seventh of February next & that the Minister should make intimation of it to the Congregation next Lord's Day.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator

**in communi forma – in common form – in the usual way*

Cumnock 21st January 1762

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, James Russel & Hugh McGeachin, Elders.

Compeared ultroneously Euphan Cannon in Stay By the Gate & judicially declared that she was with child in fornication & gave up Hugh Logan of that Ilk as the father of it. (signed Euphan Cannon)
Geo.Muir, Moderator.

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The Session appointed the Moderator to take the first opportunity of conversing with Logan on the subject of Euphan Cannon's declaration & to report.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 29th January 1762

The Session met after prayer as usual before the Communion, when the Moderator, Alexander McCirrow, James Russel, John & Hugh McGeachins prayed.

Cumnock 2nd May 1762

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, John and Hugh McGeachins - Elders.

The moderator represented that in obedience to their appointment of 21st January last, he had writto the Laird of Logan intimating Euphan Cannon's accusation of him and had received an answer from him which was produced and read, the tenor* whereof follows "Sir I received yours and I own that Euphan Cannons charge against me is just, so you may allow the girl to have her child baptized. I am ?? your sincere friend (signed) Hugh Logan" dated at the foot thus, "Logan 19 April 1762" and directed on the back thus "To the Rev Mr Muir Minister in Cumnock".

The Session having considered the above holograph* letter agreed to sustain it as a sufficient acknowledgement of the charge against Mr Logan, and therefore found that they might, in the mean time, take Euphan Cannoon on the profession of her repentance in case she apply for it, leaving any further consideration of the affair as to Logan himself untill afterwards.

Euphan Cannon having been called by a summons to hear the above report compeared sanf having heard the letter read, and the Session's deliverance upon it, craved that she might be taken on the profession of her repentance with a view to her getting the choild baptized, and because of the inconvenience she found in leaving her child, beggd the Session would appoint her to be twice rebuked on one Sabbath that he public compearances might be finished on the second Lords day.

The Session upon conversing with her, exhorted her in communi forma, and having considered her request , together with the profession of repentance she made before them, agreed to grant the desire of it, and accordingly appointed her to be rebuked in public this day both in the fore and after noon and to be rebuked in the forenoon nixt Lords day and absolved.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

** tenor – the wording or contents of a document*

**holograph letter – a letter handwritten and signed by an individual*

Cumnock 31st October 1762

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the elders except George Murdoch.

The Moderator produced & caused be read the two following Acts which were transmitted to him by the Clerk of the General Assembly, the Session in obedience to the Assembly's order appointed to be engrossed in their records the tenor whereof follow:

XXI Act of the second Session of the first Parliament of King William & Queen Mary.

July 19th 1690

Act Anent Murdering Children

Our Sovereign Lord & Lady The King & Queen Majesties, considering the frequent murders that have or may be committed upon innocent infants, whose mother's do conceal their being with child, & do not call for necessary assistance in birth; whereby the new born child may easily be stifles, or being left exposed in the condition it comes to the world, it must quickly perish, preventing whereof their Majesties, with advice & consent of the Estates of Parliament, do statut enact & declare , that if any

woman shall conceal her being with child, during the whole space & shall not call for and make use of help & assistance in the birth, the child being found dead or amissing, the mother shall be holden & reputed the murtherer of her own child: & ordains all Criminal Judges to sustain such process, & the libel, being remitted to the knowledge of an inquest, it shall be sufficient ground for them to return their verdict, finding the libel proven.

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& the mother guilty of murther, tho' there be no appearance of wound or bruise upon the body of the child and ordains this Act to be printed & published at the Mercat Crosses of the Head Boroughs of the several shires, and to be read in all the Parish Churches by the Reader of the Parish.

Act of Assembly for reading the above Act.

Edinburgh May 26 1762.

The General Assembly appoint the the Act of Parliament against Murdering of Children be read from the pulpits of each Parish in this Church at least twice every year; and that the Prebytery's at their privy censures make enquiry if the same be done: and the Assembly appoints the several Ministers of this Church to cause engross the said Act into their Session records to the end the same may always be at hand & not lost.

Extracted by (signed) George Wishart Ch ??

The Session made choice of John McGechan as presby Elder untill the Synod in Aprile nixt.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 2^{1st} November 1762

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except George Murdoch.

The Moderator proposed to them that the Lords Supper should be dispensed in the Congregation upon the last Sabbath, being the 26th day of December nixt. To which they unanimously agreed and appointed, intimation thereof to be made from the pulpit nixt Lords day.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir. Moderator.

Cumnock 10th December 1762

The Session met as usual for prayer before the Communion, when the Moderator, William Smith, Elder & John Vallance, Deacon prayed.

Cumnock 23rd January 1763

The Session met, being Sabbath morning sermon and after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except George Murdoch.

They taking into consideration the unusual sickness which prevails through the parish and particularly the malignant disease of the small pox which has begun to take place amongst the numerous children – and considering that times of trouble should be times of humiliation & prayer – moreover considering the prevalence of infidelity & ungodliness together with the unsuccessfulness of the Gospel at present, and that supplication to the throne of grace is highly incumbent of such circumstances. For these reasons they unanimously agreed in their opinion that they & the people of this parish were called to the duties of fasting, humiliation & prayer – that a God of Grace would support under outward distress, reconnect the minds of the afflicted to his will in providence, sanctify their outward troubles, spare life, where for his Glory, and prepare for death such as appointed unto it. That God would pity our little ones many of whom know not the right hand by the left & are therefore incapable of praying for themselves, that he would spare their lives if he sees it best. That he would save their souls by the blood of his covenant, and that he would overrule everything concerning the loathsome disease they are subjected or exposed to in such a way as will occasion joy & praise, and that a God of Grace would bring the wickedness of the wicked among us to an end, would put a speedy stop to the prevalence of vice immorality and ungodliness of all kinds, would accompany the ordinances of the Gospel with his effectual blessing for the conversion of sinners and comfort of sorrow, and that he would pour out upon us the spirit of Grace, supplication, faith and repentance according to his promise. The Session accordingly appointed Friday next the 28th instant to be set apart by the Congregation as a day of Solemn Humiliation fasting & prayer for the purposes ?? mentioned – and appointed the minister to intimate the same after sermon this evening with suitable exhortations.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 27th February 1763

The Session met before sermon pro re nata.

Sederunt the Moderator, John and Hugh McGeachans Elders.

The Moderator informed the Session that he had called them together at the desire of Hugh Mitchel in Waterhead in New Cumnock parish, formerly accused by Sarah McKirrol in this parish as the father of a child she brought forth in uncleanness in the 1760. The Moderator likewise

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informed them that he had caused their officer acquaint the said Sarah McKirrol of this meeting that she might have an opportunity of hearing what Hugh Mitchel had to say concerning her affair to the Session. The officer reported that he had cited her accordingly.

The Session approved of their being called together, and therefore ordered both parties to be called, Sarah McKirrol did not compare. Hugh Mitchel compared, When Hugh Mitchel being asked what he had to say to the Session, he judiciously declared that, tho' he adhered to his declaration of 4th May 1760 that he was not the father of Sarah McKirrol's said child, having had no carnal dealings with her on the last Wednesday of May 1759, the day condescended on by her, nor since that time, yet he

had been guilty of the sin of uncleanness with her some time before that last Wednesday of May 1759, which he declares was a full ten months preceeding the birth of said child, or more; and therefore, willing to have the process brought to an end, he professd sorrow for his said guilt, and crav'd that the Session might take such measures towards his absolution from the scandal ad the rules of the church direct: at the same time insisted to have it adjected* to his judicial declaration that his acknowledgement of guilt with Sarah McKirrow should not infer his being the father of her said child, nor infer any obligation on him toward the maintenance of it, or defraying other charges incumbent upon fathers in such cases. Moreover he declares that upon further deliberation, he is sure he had no carnal dealings with her after the 7th day of March 1759. (signed) Hugh Mitchell
Geo. Muir, Moderator.

The Session having considered the above declaration and desire appointed the said Hugh Mitchel to be rebuked in public this day for the first time, concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 13th March 1763

The Session met at the manse before sermon.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except George Murdoch.

When the above Hugh Mitchel compeared before them. They ordered it to be recorded that he was rebuked in public on the 27th of February once, and twice last Lords day; but because in his case it was a relapse into the same sin, he was cited to compear before them now. He was examined and exhorted in their presence , he having represented the great inconvenience to him of attending any longer upon the congregation beggd they might bring the affair to a period, which request they having considered did grand and accordingly appointed him to be rebuked twice in public this day also and absolved. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 3^d April 1763

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except George Murdoch.

Compeared utroneously Robert Forsyth on Muirkirk Parish and represented to the Session that he in the year 1733 had been taken upon the profession of his repentance for the sin of adultery with Jean Paterson then in this Parish, had made five different compearances in public & begged that they would take the proper steps towards his being absolved.

The Session having conversed with & exhorted him unanimously agreed to remit his affair to the Session of Muir-kirk that they may proceed towards his absolviture it being extremely inconvenient for him living at such a distance & bowing down with the infirmities of age to attend so often here as the rules of the Church require and they appoint an extract of this minute to be given him.

Compeared likewise Sarah McKirrol late in this parish & begged to be taken on the profession of repentance for the sin of fornication as mentioned in the former minutes. The Session unanimously agreed that she shou'd be rebuked in public for first time next Sabbath which was intimated to her.

They concluded with prayer. Geo.Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 10th Aprile 1763

The Session met at the manse before sermon after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except George Murdoch & James Russel.

They agreed that the Lords Supper be dispensed in the Congregation on the second Sabbath being the 8th day of May nixt and appointed intimation thereof to be made from the pulpit.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 3^d May 1763

The Session met for prayer as usual before the Communion.

The Moderator Alexander McKirrow, James Russel & John McGeachin, elders prayed. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 15th May 1763

The Session met before sermon, at the desire of John Campbel porter at Dumfries House and Fanny Smith, chambermaid there, after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator Alexander McKirrow, John & Hugh McGeachins, elders.

The said Fanny Smith present judicially acknowledged that she was with child in fornication and gave up the said John Campbel as the father of it. (signed Fanne Smith)

The Said John Campbel likewise present judicially acknowledged guilt with the said Fanny Smith. (signed) John Campbell

Upon these acknowledgements, the said Fanny Smith askd to be taken on the public profession of her repentance. They were both rebuked in the Session and her request having been considered was granted. Accordingly she was appointed to appear this afternoon before the Congregation to be rebuked for first time, and because it is proposed that no sermon will be here nixt Lords day, the Session appointed her to wait of John & Hugh McGeachan Elders any time betwixt and this day fortnight, and if they are satisfied of her knowledge & repentance, upon their report to the minister who is to preach that day in Mr Muirs absence they agree that she be then rebuked twice and absolved.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 19th June 1763

The Session met pro re nata at the manse before sermon after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Mclrrow, James Russel & Hugh McGeachin, Elders.

The ordered it to be engrossed that upon the 29th May last Fanny Smith mentioned in last minute was rebuked twice by Mr Young, Minister at New Cumnock who preached that day for Mr Muir, and absolved.

Compeared John Campbel mentioned in last minute and craved to be taken on the profession of his repentance which was agreed unto, and he appointed to be rebuked twice this day in public and to wait on the Session again, before he make his third compearance. He was in the mean time examined and exhorted.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 25th September 1763

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, Alexander Mcirrol, James Russel, Joh & Hugh McGeachans, Elders.

Compeared being summoned, Jean Morris in Barshire to answer to a fama clamosa thro' the parish of her having been guilty of frequent unchristian practices particularly of borrowing, besides lesser sums from other persons above four pounds sterline from John Crichton in Barshire & his daughter, borrowing these sums in the name of her late master & mistress, and covering her crimes, time after time, with a chain of gross premeditated lies. Moreover of her having indulged herself in such practices for a course of years together. She being interrogated judicially confessed the above charge, expressed great concern for her sin in it and declard her willingness to submit to what censure the Session should see meet.

She being removed they took the cause under consideration and came unanimously to the following sentence – that she should be rebuked immediately in the Session and her rebuke intimated from the pulpit next Lord's day in terror un aliorum.

She was called, the sentence intimated & the Sessional rebuke administered with suitable exhortations.

The Session ordered it to be recorded that Sarah Mcirrol according to a former appointment was rebuked for the third time & absolved by Mr Dun in the Mr Muir's absence on the 3rd of July last.

Jean Ferguson in Cumnock, on a report of her being with child in uncleanness being a relapse was ordered to be summoned to compear before the Session next Sabbath.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

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Cumnock 2nd October 1763

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, Alexander Mcirrow, James Russel, John & Hugh McGeachans, Elders.

Compeared Jean Ferguson mentioned in last minute and being interrogated judicially declared that she was with child in uncleanness. Being further interrogated as to the father of her child, and exhorted to be ingenuous, she declared that John Gemmel, son of William Gemmer in Cumnock was the father of it. She declared she could not write. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

The Moderator rebuked and exhorted her from the Chair but in regard that the said John Gemmel is out of this parish, and the Session knows not where he is, they could do nothing further in it at present.

Jean Morris's Sessional rebuke was intimated to the Congregation this day according to appointment.

The Session ordered it to be recorded that John Campbell in Leifnorris was sometime agoe rebuked for the third time for the sin of fornication with Fanny Smith & absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 2^{3rd} October 1763

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt ut supra.

They unanimously made choice of William Smith as presbytery Elder untill nixt Synod.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 26th January 1764

The Session met and after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, Alexander Mcirrow, James Russel and John McGeachin, Elders.

They unanimously agreed that the Lord's Supper should be dispensed in the Congregation on Sabbth the 12th of February next, and appointed intimation to be made accordingly.

Cumnock 10th February 1764

The Session met as usual before the Communion for prayer. The Moderator, William Smith, Hugh McGeachan and John Vallance prayed. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 11th March 1764

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, Alexander McKirrow, James Russel, John and Hugh McGeachans, Elders.

Compeared of their own accord without summons, Andrew Hodge, wright in Cumnock and Jannet Hamilton his spouse.

The said Andrew Hodge represented to the Session that he had reason to know his said spouse was much longer gone with child than the date of their marriage, which was on the 16th of December last and, as he had no carnal dealings with her before marriage, begg'd that the Session would examine her concerning her pregnancy and take such steps as the rules of the church direct in order to this scandal being set in a past light, without prejudice to his character.

The said Jannet Hamilton, having heard the above representation and being interrogate, judicially declared that she was with child at lest two months before the said marriage; that he said husband had no criminal correspondence with her before their marriage; that James Gotterie, son of John Gotterie in Laight in the parish of New Cumnock was the father of her child; that she was guilty with the said James Gotterie in the house or about the house of Dahanna (Dalhanna) in said parish of New Cumnock; that she was frequently guilty with him in that same place previous to ger marriage; & that she was guilty with no other man.

After emitting this judicial declaration in the presence of her husband the Session removed him, and in his absence asked her , the said Jannet Hamilton if he, the said Andrew Hodge had used any influence with her to give this child to another man; which question she judicially answered in the negative. She declares she cannot write. Geo Miur, Moderator.

The Session upon the foresaid declaration of Jannet Hamilton absolved the said Andrew Hodge from the scandal to which he was exposed by her pregnancy. They appointed her to be Sessionally rebuked: which was done with suitable exhortations and because the scandal was occasioned in the Parish of New Cumnock and James Gotterie the person accused resides there, they remit the whole affair to be tried, cognosed* and judged by the Kirk Session of that parish, and desired their Moderator to transmit this minute to them accordingly.

The Session concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

**cognosed - investigated*

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Cumnock 15th April 1764

The Session met after prayer.

Sedetunt the Moderator, William Smith, Alexander McKirrow, James Russel, John & Hugh McGeachans.

Compeared Jannet Hamilton mentioned in last minute and produced extracts from the Kirk Session of N. Cumnock the tenor whereof follows:

New Cumnock, 25th March 1764. Sederunt after prayer, the Minister, Rig, Crayman, Wm Arthur and James McKirrow. According to the appointment of last Session James Guthrie being cited and calld, did not compear, it being reported that he has gone out of the country; but Jannet Hamilton compered adhering to her first confession and begging leave to be taken on her public profession of repentance. The Session adjourned giving an answer to her, as to this case for some Lords days, if perhaps Guthrie may appear. She was rebuked and suitably exhorted. Extracted from the records by (signed) James Young, Moderator.

New Cumnock 8th Aprile 1764. What determined our Session not to take Jannet Hamilton upon her profession of repentance for her scandal in the Congregation, but to refer her to the Session of Cumnock, was the rule in the form of process which I read to them, and now transcribe – “When persons guilty of uncleanness live, one in one parish, and another in another parish, the process and censures are to be before the Session of the parish where the woman liveth, or where the scandal is most notour” (signed) James Young

Upon reading these papers, the said Jannet Hamilton cravd that the Session would take her upon the profession of her repentance before the Congregation conform to the above direction in the form of process.

The Session having considered her requisition saw the reasonableness of it and therefore agreed to take in the cause, though formerly remitted by them to the Session of New Cumnock; They desired their Moderator to write to Mr Young to cause Guthrie to be cited to compear before them on this day fortnight. They summond Jannet Hamilton at the bar to compear then, and mean time ordered her to converse privately with different members of the Session, that they may have an opportunity of making trial of her knowledge and repentance.

The Session concluded with prayer. G Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 29th Aprile 1764

The Session met at the manse between sermons according to intimation from the pulpit in the forenoon, after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, Alexander McKirrow, James Russel, John & Hugh McGeachand, Elders.

The Moderator produced the following execution – “New Cumnock April 26th 1764. That James Guthrie was cited from our pulpit last Lords day to compeas before the Kirk Session of Cumnock Sabbath nixt to answer to the accusation there laid against him by Jannet Hamilton is attested by signed James Young, Minister.

The execution being read James Guthrie was called but did not compear. Jannet Hamilton compearef and reissued her petition to be taken on the public profession of her repentance, she having judicially adhered to her former declarations.

The Session agreed to her requisition and accordingly appointed her to be rebuked in public this afternoon for the first time for the sin of fornication confessed by her: without mentioning the accused father as he hath taken no opportunity to confess or deny it. They appointed her to be publicly rebuk’d pro secundo nixt Lords day, and to attend upon the Session that evening.

The Session made choice of Alexander McKirrow as presby Elder untill next Synod.

They concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 6th May 1764

The Session met in the evening after sermons, after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, Alexander McKinnon, James Russel, John & Hugh McGeachans, Elders.

Jannet Hamilton, who was rebuked last Sabbath in the afternoon and this day in the forenoon before the Congregation compeared and craved that the Session would proceed towards her absolution according to the rules of the church. The Session, having mostly conversed with her in private, were satisfied with her knowledge and seeming concern, as gave them freedom to grant her desire. They accordingly appointed her to be rebuked in publick next Lords day in the afternoon & absolved – but absolved provisionally that if providence shall at any time afterwards cast such further light upon this affair as will prove that she has not dealt ingenuously as to the father of her child, she shall be held as under scandal.

In her peculiar circumstances, having nothing of her own, and her husband being unwilling to pay it, the Session agreed not to insist for the penalty incurred by her at present.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 17th June 1764

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders mentioned in the last minute.

Jannet Hamiltons absolviture was delayed upon information that James Gotterie was returned to his father's house. The Moderator was desired to write to the Session of New Cumnock to cause him be summoned to to compear before this Session to-day – accordingly he and Jannet Hamilton being called compeared. Her accusation was read to the said James Gotterie and she judicially adhered to it in his presence. When he being interrogate judicially declared that he had been guilty of fornication with the said Jannet Hamilton but thinks that if the child was had come to his time she would not have been delivered for about two months after the time she was delivered being the 28th May last. (signed) James Gotry. Geo Muir, Moderator.

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James Gotterie desired that Jannet Hamilton might be asked whether he desired her to delay her marriage with Andrew Hodge because of the correspondence he and her had had together? Whether he had offered to marry her? Whether she told him she did not think she was with child to him, and therefore that he needed not fear being troubled about it? All which questions were put to her and answered by her in the affirmative. She declares she cannot write. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

James Gotterie was rebuked in the Session & exhorted and the Session renewed their appointment upon Jannet Hamilton to compear before the congregation nixt Sabbath to be rebuked for the third time and absolved.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, moderator.

Cumnock 14th August 1764

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander Mclrrow, James Russel & Hugh McGeachan Elders.

There having been a report thro' the parish that Euphan Cannon, late in Stay by Gate, now in Cumnock, was with child in uncleanness. The Session upon Sabbath last ordered their officer to cite her to compear before them this day to answer to that charge. The officer reported that he summond her personally and she being called compeared and being interrogated and exhorted to tell the truth declared that she was now with child and that Hugh Logan of that ilk was the father of her child. (signed) Euphan Cannon. Geo Muir, Moderator.

The Session having rebuked and exhorted the said Euphan Cannon at the bar, appointed John McGeachan Elder to inform the Laird of Logan concerning the charge, to desire him in their name either to write to his answer in a letter or to name a day and place for his compearance before the Session to make answer to the charge, in which event they agree that a meeting pro re nata shall be called, and they appoint the said John McGeachan to report.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 2nd September 1764

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, Alexander McIrrrow, James Russel, John & Hugh McGeachans Elders and John Vallance, Deacon.

They taking into their consideration the time that would be most convenient for dispensing the Lords Supper her, were of the opinion that it could not be sooner, by reason the lateness of the harvest, than the last sabbath, being 28th of October next; and therefore unanimously agreed that the minister should intimate that day to the congregation on any of the intermediate sabbaths he finds most proper.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 9th September 1764

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, Alexander McKirrow, James Russel & Hugh McGeachanm Elders.

They unanimously made choice of the following persons to be ordaind Elders in the congregation viz. William Hoggsyard, Schoolmaster & John Gibb, cooper in Cumnock, John Howatson, tennant in Burnside, William Muir, tennant in Bowton and Hugh Sloan, tennant in Whitehill. They appointed the edict of these five persons to be served by the minister from the pulpit nixt Lords day and in case no objections against them shall be offered by the Congregation, the Session appoint their ordination to be exped* upon sabbath the 30th instant after sermon in the evening.

They concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

**expede – expedited/completed.*

Cumnock 9th September 1764

The Session met at the manse between sermons, after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, Alexander McIlrow, James Russel, John & Hugh McGeachans, Elders.

The minister reported that according to the appointment of last meeting he had on Sabbath 16th instant intimated their choice of William Hoggyard, John Gibb, John Howatson and Hugh Sloan to the Congregation and their resolution of ordaining them this afternoon; but reported that William Muir, though chosen by the Session declined his acceptance of the office and therefore his Edict was not served.

The Session then entered on the consideration of ordaining the other, when it was represented, by John McGeachan, that some of them desired him to ?**aeagnaint** the Session of their wanting further time to consider of it, before they were ordaind. Upon which they unanimously were of oppinion that it was proper to delay the ordination of all the four and accordingly did delay it untill Sabbath the 9th of December, till which day they continue the Edict and appointed the Minister to intimate the same, in the afternoon, to the congregation.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 6th November 1764

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, Alexander McIlrow, James Russel, John & Hugh McGeachans, Elders and John Vallance, Deacon.

They made choice of John McGeachin to be prbty elder until the next synod be past. When a new copy of Dunlop's abridgement of the Acts of Assembly was put into his hands, to be used by him, and returnd, when another prbty elder shall be chosen. Geo Muir, Moderator.

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Cumnock 2nd December 1764

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, Alexander McKirrow, James Russel, John & Hugh McGeachans, Elders.

Compeared ultroneously John Halbert in Garlachen and judicially acknowledged that on Sabbath the 11th November last, he had been raised in a hurry with a report that a mad dog was in the neighbourhood, and without minding that it was the Lord's day he ran out with a gun and continued for some time shooting fowls until he was put in mind of his mistake by a neighbour. He expressed his sorry for the mistake, declared that if he had known it was Sabbath he would by no means have done it, and begged the Session would do what was proper in order to the removal of the scandal it had occasioned.

The Session, because of the thing having happened without intention, and his having been hurried out with the report of a mad dog, unanimously thought that the ends of edification might be secured by exhorting and rebuking him in their presence, which was done & he dismissed.

John McGeachan reported that though he had both spoke and write to Logan about Euphan Cannon no answer was obtained. The Session therefore appointed their Moderator to write to him and report.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 6th December 1764

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander McKirrow, John & Hugh McGeachans, Elders and John Vallance Deacon, and James Russel, Elder.

The Session unanimously made choice of David Vallance Schoolmaster in Cumnock to be their Clerk. The Moderator in their presence took his oath de fidele administratione and he took his seat accordingly.

Upon a report that one Jannet Dunlop at present residing with James Merrie shoemaker in Cumnock is with child in uncleanness, the Session at their last meeting ordered their officer to cite her ti compear in before them this day. The officer reported that he had summoned her and she being called did not compear. The Session renewed their appointment to summon her to appear before them next sabbath after sermon.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 2nd December 1764

The Session met at the manse betwixt sermons, according to their appointment of the 30th September last, after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, Alexander McKirrow, James Russel, John & Hugh McGeachans, Elders.

They took the ordination of the Elders mentioned in the minute of that date again under their consideration, when the Moderator represented that he had a letter from Hugh Sloan declining his acceptance of that office, which letter was read and the declination sustained. The Session then agreed that the minister should proceed to ordain the other three in the afternoon before dismissing the congregation.

Accordingly, they ordered their officer to call at the most patent door of the church, that if ay person had any objections why John Howatson, William Hoggsyard or John Gibb they might repair immediately to the Session and lay their objection before them.

The officer reported that he had done so, and no objections being offerd the minister after sermon called upon these three men, when William Hoggsyard and John Gibb compeared but John Howatson did not compear. He therefore put the ordinary questions to them and set them apart to the office of Elders by prayer.

When the congregation was dismissed the saids William Hoggsyard & John Gibb met with the Session, received the right hand of fellowship, were enrolled and took their seats.

Jannet Dunlop being summond pro secundo was called but did not compear. The officer was orderd to summon her pro tertio to compear before them on Thursday nixt.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 23rd December 1764

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, James Russel, Alexander McKirrowJohn & Hugh McGeachans, Elders.

They taking into their consideration the division of the parish, into particular quarters, that every elder may know his own particular charge; unanimously agreed upon the following division.

1st William Smith is to have charge of the Pennyfadzeoch and Leiffnorris diet.

2nd John Vallance is to have the charge of the Glasnock diet.

3rd George Murdoch is to have the charge of the Borland diet, and because of his age and infirmity, John McGechan is to join with him in the discharge of that trust.

4th James Russal is to have the charge of the Hayholm diet.

5th Alexander McKirrow is to have the charge of the Logan diet.

6th William Hogsyeard is to ave the charge of that part of the town of Cumnock which lies from the east end of the town, both sides of the street, to the house on the east side of the vennel*, leading to the timber bridge, including the hill side, the holm head, and the house on the south of the said bridge.

7th John Gibb tis to have the charge of that part of the town of Cumnock, from west side of vennel, both sides of the street, downward to the west end of the town, and upward again to the school house, including Greenbraehead, Herdston & Donaldston &

*8th Hugh McGechan is to have the rest of the town.

According to the above division, the Session find, that the Auchangibbert, Horsecleuch, Bridgend, Garralland, Dykes and Bouton diets want elders, and therefore agree to discharge the duties of their function, amongst the people within these six diets as the shall have opportunity, untill, in providence, they may be provided with elders of their own.

**vennel – a narrow alley or lane between houses*

The Session having agreed to the above division, agreed also to the following articles of business, that the people with in each of the fores'd quarters, have with, and may ask of, their respective elders.

1mo sick persons may apply to them to pray over them.

2do poor persons must represent their circumstances to the particular elder of the quarter, where they live, who will lay them before the Session, and what supply is granted, will be transmitted through his hands.

3tio those who want baptism for their children, must apply to their own elder, who will then come alongst with them, or send along to the Minister, for attesting their moral character.

4to those who want testimonials from the Session, must apply for them to their own elder, who will represent their demand, and procure the Session's answer.

5to those who bring testimonials from other parishes, must give them to their own elder, who will produce them to the Session, and return them to their owners.

6to those who want to table any complaint, give any information, or make any voluntary acknowledgement, to the Session must represent it first to their own elder, that he may obtain the Session's opinion, concerning the propriety of taking in such cause.

The Session, moreover, agreed unanimously to the following articles of duty, as what they judge belong to their office.

1mo to endeavour to, as far as is convenient, to make themselves acquainted with the people within their respective quarters.

2do to notice who come from other parishes, and to enquire for their testimonials.

3tio to take prudent ways of admonishing any within their bounds whose behaviour may call for it.

4to to represent such persons to the Session, as will hearken to them for advice.

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5to while the respective elders are to keep every thing from the Session, which is either not well founder, or below the notice of an ecclesiastical court, they are to be punctual in giving all proper informations and giving them timeously.

6to They are particularly to inform themselves, with respect to the behaviour of usual communicants, within their quarters, that, before every communion, the Session may know if tokens are to be withheld from any of them.

The Session agreed that the foregoing division of the parish with the six articles of business, be intimated by the minister, from the pulpit, for the behoof of all concerned.

The officer reported that on upon Thursday the thirteenth, that, he had summoned Jannet Dunlop pro tertio, according to order but that he was not told she had left the place, and that the people with who she lived knew not whither she had gone.

The Session therefore agreed tp drop that enquiry for the present.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator

Cumnock January 20th 1765

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except George Murdoch and James Vallance.

Compeared James Ferguson and Katrine Goldie both in Cumnock. She judicially acknowledged that she was with child to James Ferguson in fornication and he that he was the father of it. (signed) James Fergusson. She judicially declared that she could not write.

Upon the above declaration they were rebuked and exhorted.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock January 27th 1765

The Session met at the manse before sermon bring called pro re nata, after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, John McGechan & William Hogsyard elders.

The Moderator represented that, according to their appointment he had written to the Laird of Logan and had received his answer, which was produced and read, the tenor whereof ??

“Dear Sir, I could have answered yours before this time, but always put it off, intending to have seen you myself; I own Euphan Cannon’s declaration to be just, and acknowledge with it, I hope this will satisfie; I am sorry that any former letter was not to your satisfaction. I am Sir your humble Servant. (Sic subscribitur) Hugh Logan.

The Session agreed to accept of the above letter, as an evidence of Euphan Cannon’s charge against Mr Logan of the 14th of august last being just, and she having often express’d her willingness and desire to be admitted to the public profession of her repentance when for want of Logan’s acknowledgement, the Session could not grant her request. They agreed to admit her immediately and appointed her to be publicly rebuked for the first time in the forenoon, and for the second time in the afternoon this day, accordingly , she, having been summoned, was called and had the above appointment intimated to her. She then moved that as her child was still unbaptised and the delay of **dis??** not owing to her, the Sess. Would allow her to berebuked twice likewise, for two other Sabbaths that the absolvitur may take the sooner place in order to the baptism of her child. This they took under consideration, untill the evening, so adjourned.

After sermons the same day the Session met. Sederunt the Moderator, John & Hugh McGeachins, William Hogsyard & John Gibb, Elders. They judged her desire to be reasonable, and therefore granted the same, and appointed accordingly, meantime they exhorted her sessionally, and ordered her to take an opportunity of conversing privately with William Hogsyard the Elder of the bounds where she lives, and desired him to report, as to what sense of her sin and evidences of her repentance he discovered previous to her absolution.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 10th February 1765

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except George Murdoch.

Compeared ultroneously Robert MicMikken and Margaret McCrae, he gardiner late in Auchinleck parish, and she daughter to James McCrae in this parish.

They judicially declared that they were married upon the 7th of November last, by one who called himself Thomas Smith, Minister, that they had cohabited together as man and wife since that time and that they adhered to their marriage. (Signed) Robert McMikin, Magrat McCre

The Session upon the above declaration rebuked them for the irregularity of their marriage, exhorted and dismiss'd them .

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 14th February 1765

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, Alexander McKirrow, James Russek, William Hogsyeard and John Gibb, Elders and John Vallance Deacon.

Euphan Cannon having been rebuked in publick four different times, the Session ask'd William Hogsyeard if he had conversed with her, according to their appointment; who reported that he had done so, and from her knowledge, and profession of repentance, he was of opinion that she might be allow'd to finish her publick appearances next sabath, and be absolved. The Session appointed accordingly and concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator

Cumnock 21st March 1765

The Session mett pro re nata after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Hugh Mcgechin, William Hogsyeard & John Gibb Elders.

It was represented to them by the Moderator that James Ferguson (who according to minute of 20th January last judicially acknowledged the sin of fornication with Katrine Goldie) having since that time married the sd Katrine Goldie begged to be taken on profession of his repentance for it, as ante nuptial fornication. The Session agreed to his request and appointed him to be rebuked publicly on sabath next 31st instant and absolved.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 31st March 1765

The Session met pro re nota at the manse before sermon.

Sederunt the Moderator, Alexander McKirrow, John & Hugh McGeachand, William Hogsyeard and John Gibb, Elders.

They taking into their serios consideration the alarming appearance of the weather, by which the labour and sowing of the ground is so much hindred, and scarcity of bread thereby threatened considering that our nation parochial family, & personal sins are a just cause why God may plead his controversy against us by breaking the staff of bread* and that the threatening of such a calamity cals for a special humiliation, & prayer. They unanimously agreed to set apart Wednesday next as a day of solemn fasting, humiliation & prayer in this congregation, that God may determine and enable us to return to him in the way of the Gospel, that the present threatening of outward

judgements may be removed in mercy, and that the springing of the earth may be blest, and cleanness of ?? prevented. To that particular call in prov.* They look upon the unsuccessfulness of the Gospel as a circumstance in our case which strongly corroborates every other argument for enforcing such duties and therefore would have it particularly in veen* that prayer for the effusion of divine influence to accompany the means of grace be offered up on that occasion.

This act the Sesion appointed their Moderator to intimate from the pulpit this day with suitable exhortations.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

**staff of bread – a biblical quote that means the “support of life”*

**prov – proof, or a test or trial (of faith)*

***veen – a gathering or coming together (for prayer)*

Cumnock 11th April 1765

The Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, Alexander McIlrow, James Russel, William Hogsyeard, Hugh McGechan & John Gibb Elders.

They unanimously made choice of John Russel to attend the presby. as their representative untill the ?? synod. They ordered the acts of assembly ti be delivered to his by John McGechan their last representative.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 28th Aprile 1765

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt ut supra.

They taking into their consideration the necessity of fixing upon a time for dispensing the Lord’s supper, which may, most probly, answer the conveniency of the parish; unanimously agreed that the first sabbath and seventh day of July would be the properest, and therefore appointed this resolution to be recorded, and the intimation of it to be made by the minister, any sabbath betwixt & that day which he judges convenient.

The minute in the preceding page of 21st March last, having, by mistake, been scord through, as if cancelled, the Session herby adopt it as their’s, and appoint it to be recorded that James Feguson was in consequence thereof rebuked publickly, exhorted, and absolved.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 6th June 1765

The Session met as usual before the communion, when the Moderator, Alexander McIlrow, James Russel, John McGeachan and William Hogsyard prayed.

Cumnock 6th October 1765

The Session being met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, James Russel, William Smith, John & Hugh McGeachans & William Hogsyard, Elder, and John Gibb.

Compeared Marion Mitchel, daughter to James Mitchel, cooper in Cumnock, and judicially acknowledged that above a twelve month agoe she brought forth a child in uncleanness to one Alexander Thomson, weaver then in Paisley, and for ascertaining the truth of this charge against him she produced an acknowledgement under his hand the tenor whereof follows “paisley the year 1764 and the month of May 22nd to the Session of Cumnock, I Alexander Thomson, in Paisley being too great with Marion Mitchell the bearer and she being with child, and giving it to my charge, I do acknowledge the child to be mine, and I, at the desire of the reverend Session shall answer for it. (signed) Alexander Thomson” She declared that she had been at all pains to inform herself of the place of Thomson’s residence since she brot forth her child, that the Session might have called him, but without success; and now sensible of the disadvantage she labours under by the scandal lying unpurged she beg’d that the Session would take her upon the profession of her repentance, in order to her absolution according to the rules of the Church. And promised that if any thing contrary to this declaration should afterwards appear, she will submit to what subsequent censure the Session shall see fit. Declares she cannot write. Geo. Muir.

The Session taking this representation under their consideration agreed to take her upon the profession of her repentance, appointed her to be rebuked for the first time in public next Lord’s day in the afternoon and mean time ordered her to converse with William Hoggsyard the elder of the quarter where she lives that he may report what knowledge and sense of her crime she has.

The Session likewise appointed their Moderator and said Marion Mitchell to subscribe the declaration of Alexander Thomson, which she gave in, that it may be kept in the clerks hand.

Concluded with prayer. Geo.Muir, Moderator.

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There are a number of entries repeated, scored through and out of order in the last few pages.

Cumnock October 20th 1765

The Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, James Russell, William Smith, Alexander Mcirrow, John & Hugh McGeachans. William Hogsyard & John Gibb, Elders & John Vallance, Deacon.

Marion Mitchell (having been rebuked for the second time this day and William Hogsyard having given a favourable reportof her knowledge) compeared, and adhear’d to her former accusation

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She was exhortd from the chair abd the Moderator appointed to rebuke her for the third time next sabbath and to absolve her.

The Session unanimously made choise of John Gibb to represent them in the presytry for the insuing half year when the acts of assembly were put into his habd.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator

Cumnock 22nd January 1766

The communion having been formerly fix'd to sabbath next the 26th the Session mett as usual for prayer when the Moderator, William Smith and John Gibb prayed.

Cumnock 30th January 1766

The Session mett, after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, James Russel, Hugh McGeachan, William Hoggsyard, John Gibb, Elders & John Vallance deacon.

Jean Ferguson in Cumnock, natural daughter to John Ferguson there, compeared and judicially declared that she has been with child since the week before martinmas fair last. That John Boswel writer in Cumnock is the father of it. That she told him of her pregnancy on Munday was a fortnight, when he only said that she was not a quarter gone. And declared she could not write.

She was rebuked and exhortd in the Session, when they concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 24th Aprile 1766

The Session mett, after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, James Russel, John & Hugh McGeachans, William Hoggsyard and John Gibb, elders.

They having last Lord's day the 20th inst., ordered their officer to summon the above John Boswel to compear at this diet to answer to Jean Ferguson's charge, the moderator represented that Mr Boswel had wrote to him, that he could not attend this day, but would do it soon. The Session sustained this excuse; but in regard, they had waited near three months, upon his promising to compear without citation; and have reason to think themselves not well used, by the terms in which his letter, to the Moderator, is received. They resolved to insist on his compearance, and determined that if he don't fulfill that promise, on or before Sabbath sevenight the 4th May nixt, he shall be summoned to compear before them, on the Sabbath next thereafter being the 11th May; and ordered their officer in that event to cite him accordingly.

The Session made choice of William Hoggsyard, by a majority of votes, to attend the presby at ayr, and the nixt synod at Glasgow, in their name as their representative and ordered their Clerk to give him an extract of his election if desired. The acts of assembly were put into his hands.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 11th May 1766

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders.

The officer reported that on the eight inst. he summon'd John Boswell and Jean Fergusson to this diet, they were called at the most patent door of the church but did not compear whereupon the Session ordered them to be summoned pro secundo, to compear before them on sabbat the twenty fifth inst.

The session having fixed upon Sabbath the twenty ninth of June for dispensing the Lord's supper in the congregation the Moderator made intimation of it from the pulpit.

Concluded with prayer. Geo. Muir, Moderator

Cumnock 26th May 1766

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Smith, William Hogsynd, Hugh McGeachan and John Gibb, Elders.

The officer reported that on the 18th inst. he summoned John Boswell and Jean Fergusson, this diet they were called at the most patent door of the church, she compeared but he did not whereupon the Session ordered them to be summoned pro tertio, to compear before them on Sabbath the fifteenth of June.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 17th June 1766

The Session met for prayer before the dispensation of the Lord's Super when the Moderator, Hugh McGeachan, John Vallance and James Russel prayed.

The former Session upon 25th May was constitute by Mr Young, Minister of New Cumnock, in the absence of their own Moderator. The order therein contained was not executed by the officer, for a reason which the Session sustained. The Session therefore now appoint their officer to summon the said John Boswel pro tertio, and Jean Ferguson to compear vefore them upon Sabbath nixt the 22nd inst.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

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Cumnock 22nd June 1766

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders viz William Smith, James Russel, John & Hugh McGeachans, William Hoggsyard & John Gibb Elders, and John Vallance deacon.

The officer reported that he had summoned John Boswel pro tertio & Jean Ferguson to this diet. She did not compear, and from him a letter was produced by Hugh McGeachan directed "to the Minister & Elders of the Kirk Session of Cumnock" the tenor whereof follows. "Revd Gentlemen. I am sorry that altho' I received two citations to compear before you it never was convenient for me to attend; always something or other interfering, disappointed my intention of appearing, who am extremely desirous of having that affair out to a period, and out of no disrespect to your order, which indeed I would heartily have complied with, had it been in my power; and ever will approve of the good order and discipline of the Church which is so beneficial to society. But at the same time I must inform you how vastly inconvenient it is still for me to attend at this time, in regard that interesting business, which is of the utmost importance to me, at present, calls me from this place this day; so that I am uncertain at what time I may return again. Since this is the case, it is hoped the Session will have no difficulty to postpone this business, and sist procedure until a further day. I could think three or four weeks hence much more convenient, when I expect to have some business settled, that at present gives me some trouble and concern. Your compliance with my request will ever bemuch acknowledged by your obed. humble servant. (Signed) John Boswell. June 21st 1766."

The Session having considered the above request, did not call Mr Bosewl at the door, but sustained his excuse and sisted any further procedure in his affair, till they shall see cause to revive it.
Geo Muir, Moderator

Cumnock September 7th 1766

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the members.

Compeared John Boswell & Jean Fergusson, she being interrogate adhered to her former declaration as to the father of her child and he being interrogate, he judicially declared that he was not the father of her child, being further interrogate declared that he had no criminal correspondence with her, on the week before martinmass fair last, as condescended upon in her declaration, declared further that he does not remember of her ever having told him of her pregnancy. (Signed) John Boswell Geo Muir, Moderator.

Jean Ferguson being further interrogate, declared that Mr Boswell was likewise guilty with her on the martinmass fair night last; and declares, that he was not guilty with her except these two times; being further interrogate, declared, that their guilt was committed the first time, in Hugh Dalrymples yard about ten a clock at night, and the second time in James Findlays yard about twelve at night. Declares that Jannet Samson in Cumnock saw them together the first time, as they were going to Hugh Dalrymple's yeard, and that Mr Boswell then bought a penny worth of apples from said Samson and gave her; declared that it was in in Jannet Samson's own house she saw them; declared further, that, James Ferguson and his wife and Alexander Johnston in Cumnock saw them together that first evening in James Ferguson's kitchen; and that Mr Boswell was the worse of drink; being interrogate for the defender, why she thought him the worse of drink, declar'd that he lay above James Ferguson who was in bed, curs'd, and swore and would have James to rise; being interrogate for the defender, what oath he pronounces, declared that he bad God Damn James Ferguson for a

brugar if he would not have him up. Declar'd that she could give no other reason for thinking Mr Boswel the worse of drink.

Mr Boswel being further interrogate, declared that he does not remember if he saw her in James Ferguson's the night condescended upon or not. Declared further that he did not take her into Jannet Sampson's house, that night, nor buy apples for her. (Signed) John Boswell. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Jean Ferguson was interrogate for the defender, if she had ever got any letter from any person, wanting to know if Mr Boswel had taken with the child, or if she had reason to think he would; and advising her to continue in her promise. She declared in the negative. Geo Muir, Moderator.

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The Session having considered the ?? declarations, allowed Jean Ferguson to prove her presumptions, and grant warrant to their officer to summon James Ferguson, Kathrine Goldie his wife, Alexander Johnston, & Jannet Sampson, to compear before them, on Monday the 15th inst. at three in the afternoon. Mr Boswel & Jean Ferguson were cited from the barr to compear.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 15th September 1766

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, James Russel & William Hoggsyard, elders.

John Boswel was call'd he compeared not. Jean Ferguson was called & compeared.

James Howat Session Officer reported in ?writ that upon the 8th inst. he summoned James Ferguson, Kathrine Goldie, Alexander Johnston and Jannet Sampson to this diet. They being all called, Jannet Sampson only compeared.

Jannet Sampson being called up, Jean Ferguson was asked if she would dispense with her oath and ?rest in her declaration, she said she was willing. Accordingly said Jannet Sampson aged upwards of fifty unmarried being interrogate declared that about a fortnight or twenty days at the farthest before the martinmas fair of Cumnock about ten at night, John Boswel the defender and Jean Ferguson both mentioned in last minute came into her house together, that Mr Boswell bought a penny worth of apples from the declarant, that when she was about to give them to himself, he bad her give them to Jean Ferguson, that whenever Jean Ferguson took the apples Mr Boswell abd she went out together and that the declarant did not look after them and therefore knows not whither they went. Being interrogate declared that she remembers of no conversation that she heard between them only that they were merry and laughing together. Declared that she thought Mr Boswel was not that much the worse of drink. Declares she cannot write. Geo. Muir, Moderator.

Afterwards, Kathrine Goldie compeared. Jean Ferguson being asked if she would dispense with her oath and rest on her declaration, she said she insisted on having her oath. Kathrine being called up said she did not chuse to give her oath. The Session considering Jean Ferguson's request and Kathrine Goldie's answer agreed to take her declaration only, leaving it to one or other of the parties to insist on her oath afterwards if they please.

Accordingly said Kathrine aged above thirty married being interrogate declared that the Friday before Cumnock Martinmass fair last Mr Boswel and Jean Ferguson were in the declarants house together and that he was something the worse of drink. That her husband was in bed and John Boswel bad him rise. That John Boswel went into the bed to her husband when he wanted him to rise, and sat down on the bedside by him. That the declarant and her husband, Alexander Johnston in Cumnock and Mr Boswel's mother were with him, and Jean Ferguson in the same room. That to the best of her knowledge the declarant thinks it would have been between nine and ten at night. Declares she cannot write. Geo Muir, Moderator.

The Session adjourned this cause until Thursday the 25th inst. and granted warrant to their officer to summond James Ferguson & Alexander Johnston pro secundo to compear that day at eleven o'clock. Jean Ferguson was summoned at the bar.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator

Cumnock 25th September 1766

The Session met according to the above adjournment after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Hoggsyard and Hughr McGeachan.

John Boswel and Jean Ferguson were calld, he compeatred not. She compeared. James Howat reported that he had summoned James Ferguson and Alexander Johnston to this diet.

James Ferguson called compeared. Jean Ferguson was and agreed that his oath should be dispensed with, accordingly the Session agreed to take his declaration only, and he being interrogated, aged forty nine and married declared that one night about Martinmass fair last the said John Boswell came into his house where Jean Ferguson also was, that he does not doubt that Mr Boswel was a little the worse of drink, at ???. Declared that Mr Boswel said so himself, that he does not doubt but it would have been 10 at night, that he the declarant was in bed, that Mr Boswel lay above the declarant in his bed, calling him a bougar or something like that and bad him rise, that the declarants wife and Alexander Johnston in Cumnock were likewise present. (signed) James Fergusson Geo Muir, Moderator.

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Aleander Johnston called compeared. Jean Ferguson likewise dispensed with his oath. He therefore, aged above thirty unmarried, declared that about the tail of harvest last year he remembers to have seen John Boswel the defender and Jean Ferguson the pursuer one night in James Ferguson's house, when James Ferguson and his wife were likewise present, that James Ferguson was un bed, that he supooses Mr Boswel had been drinking some little, that it was about eight at night, that he left them there. (signed) Alexander Johnston Geo. Muir, Moderator.

The Session delayed giving any deliverance upon the above proof till this day fortnight, to which day this cause is hereby adjourned.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock October 5th 1766

The Session mett at the manse before sermon after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, William Hoggsyard and Hugh McGeachab Elders.

They made choice of Mr Robert Patterson, writer in Cumnock to be an Elder in this parish, agreed that he should be ordained upon Friday the 17th current, and appointed their Moderator to make intimation of the same this day from the pulpit that all concerned may have an opportunity of appearing for their interest.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator

Cumnock 9th October 1766

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, James Russel, John and Hugh McGeachans, William Hoggsyard, and John Gibb, elders.

John Boswel and Jean Ferguson were calle – he did not compear, she compeared. The Session resumed the consideration of that affair, an find it proven that she was in James Fergusson's house with him one evening about the time when she alleges they were first guilty together; find that his buying a peny worth of apples to her that night from Janet Sampson is likewise attested by that one witness; and as the first of these circumstances was not remembered, and the other positively denied, by Mr Boswell, the Session find they are such a presumption against him, as renders it improper to absolve him.

It was moved that Mr Boswell's letter to Mr Muir, refer'd to in minute of Aprile 24th should be read again, the tenor whereof follows – "Revd Sir this day I was extremely surpris'd at your, and the Sessions, rahness, in fixing a day for my compearance, when, on Friday last, I think I told John Gibb if it was in my power to attend on Sunday last I would have done it; but it was Sunday morning before I returned; besides I gave you a hint in a former letter that I thought there was no time past and that perhaps it would tend to better purposes for truth's sake, to let it ly over a little; so if you go so hasy to work, I myself say you don't use me well, and should be glad to know the reason for it. I am determined to attend when I think it will be proper, and that soon; so unless some particular reason is given, I cannot see the reason of my compliance forthwith; I only add quid non vis libre fieri ne secoris atteri. I am Revd Sir yours sincerely (Signed John Boswell). Cumnock Thursday 9 a clock. I cannot be there on Thursday first". It was then moved in the Session, that the other letter refer'd to by Mr Boswell in this, should be read and recorded, the tenor whereof follows. " Mr Boswell's compliments to Mr Muir, in regard business not foreseen has occur'd, rendered inconvenient for him to attend this day their meeting, which will excuse, intends giving himself the pleasure of waiting upon Mr Muir soon in order to appoint a further time for his attending; meantime he is of opinion he should wait the time of this poor unfortunate creature's delivery, before any further procedure, perhaps before then matter may turn out in a different light, and besides it will be better for both parties judging, and also for the Session's satisfaction in the event of a turn of conscience upon her part, as Mr Boswell has no doubt of her being instigated which must turn out to be her sad loss, Thursday one o clock pm."

The Session considering the above letter, find the presumption against Mr Boswel, of guilt with said Jean Ferguson, very strong; that, therefore, the can by no means absolve him; and though he is

legally present, having been cited from the bar upon the 7th September last and regularly called at every subsequent meeting, that he may have no reason to alledge any advantage was taken against him, they appoint their Clerk to transmit an extract of this days minute to the defender, that he may have an opportunity of insisting in such methods of exculpation as are agreeable to the rules of the Church. With certification, that if he fail of such application to them, within six weeks from this date, a letter shall be written and transmitted by the Clerk to the Kirk Session of Ayr, within whose bounds he now resides, informing them of his lying under an unpurged scandal; and desiring that they may cause their officer cite him to compear before this Session, upon such a day as they shall, at that time, condescend upon, to hear and see such sentence pronounced in this cause, as may then seem meet. And the Session ordered both the above letters, which are holograph, though the one only is subscribed, to be kept. Accordingly they were at their sight subscribed by the Moderator on the back, and put, with a bundle of other papers, relating to discipline, into their box.

Concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock 17th October 1766

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr George Muir, late minister of Cumnock Moderator. (He having obtained a verbal leave of the preby of Ayr to preside in the Session from the 9th current, when his pastoral relation was loosed until he should be admitted at Paisley.) James Russel, John and Hugh McGeechans, John Gibb and William Hoggsyard Elders and John Vallance, Deacon.

They made choice of John McGeachan to be their preby elder until the nixt synod be past, accordingly Dundas's abridgment of the acts of assembly was delivered by William Hoggsyard, their late preby elder, into his hands.

The Session ordered their officer to call at the most potent door of the Church that if any person or persons have any reason to assign why Mr Robert Patterson, writer, should not be ordained and admitted as an Elder of this parish, they may repair immediately to the manse for that purpose, where the Session is conveened. The officer having reported that he did so three several

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times, and no person having compeared to offer objections, the Session agreed that their moderator pro tempore should proceed to his ordination and appointed accordingly. They then adjourned to the Church, where, after sermon the said Mr Robert Patterson was called up, and, in the face of the congregation, gave satisfying answers to the ordinary questions on such occasions; whereupon he was set apart to that office by prayer. After sermon the Session gave him the right hand of fellowship, and ordered his name to be enrolled as an elder of the Congregation and concluded with prayer. Geo Muir, Moderator.

Cumnock November 23rd 1766

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Dun minister at Auchinleck, William Hogsyrd, John & Hugh McGeachans Elders, John Gibb Elders and John Vallance.

The Session resuming the affair anent Mr John Boswel agreed to delay proceeding in it for some time in regard of there being no minister settled in the place at the time and of the uncertainty when there may be sermon here, and a session be kept. Mean time the Session order the preby Elder to inform one of the ministers of Ayr of the affair in whose parish Mr Boswel resides at present. John Dun, Moderator.

Cumnock 15th February 1767

The Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Mr William Auld, Minister at Mauchline, William Hogsyrd, John and Hugh McGeachans, John Gibb, John Vallance and Robert Paterson.

Compeared Jean Telfort in Glaisnock and being interrogate whether she is with child or not she answered she was with child and said further that Charles Good, late in Cumnock was guilty with her and the father of her child. The said Charles Good being called compeared and being asked denys the charge and says that he never was guilty with her of the sin alleged.

The Session appoints Jean Telfort to bring her presumptions of guilt against the next Session this day fourthnight whereof the parties are acquainted. William Auld Moderator.

Cumnock 28th February 1767

The Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Mr George Reid, minister, Robert Patterson, John and Hugh McGeachans, John Gibb, William Hogsyrd & John Gibb, elders and John Vallance.

Compeared Jean Telfer being called and interrogated if she had any presumption of Charles Good being guilty with her she said that Saturday was a fortnight having talked with him he did not refuse guilt with her but said that the child would not come to any of the times she had instanced. The Session think it proper that the said Jean Gibson* should be cited against this day fortnight. Charles Good was called, did not compear but sent a letter by way of excuse being another mans servant which the Session could not sustain as an excuse because a woman was cited as a presumption against him. Geo. Reid, Moderator.

**not previously mentioned in the minutes.*

Cumnock 10th March 1767

The Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt John & Hugh McGeachans, William Hogsyrd, John Gib & Robert Paterson, Elders and John Vallance Deacon.

John McGechan was chosen Moderator pro tempore & Robert Paterson Clerk.

The which day it was represented by John Gibb that Mr Dun had condescended to hold a Session upon Friday the thirteenth instant upon which account Charles Good had been ordered and was cited against that day as it's a more proper day than on a Sabbath, and he further represented that he had credible information anent the guilt of the said Charles Good. The Session ordain the witnesses to be cited to the said dyet and Jean Telfort to be acquainted of it.

Thereafter the Session took to consideration a fama clamosa at present prevailing in the place against David Vallance the Session Clerk his behaviour with Ann

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Hunter at the last publick ??minat of the place and Mr Vallance being called acknowledged he was in company with the said Ann Hunter in the house of James Murdoch, Innkeeper, at the Candlemas Thursday of Cumnock but refused and denied that there was any indecent behaviour betwixt them, and they were in a laigh cellar together where the landlord was going out and in bringing ale and a candle was burning all the time and he is quite willing that James Murdoch and any other person be called to declare what they know about the affair. The Session thinks proper that James Murdoch and the other persons in company with Mr Vallance in the publick house at the time be called upon the 13th instant to declare what they know about the affair.

The Session concluded with prayer. John McGeachin.

Cumnock 13th March 1767

The Session being mett.

Sederunt Mr Dun Minister at Auchinleck, John & Hugh McGeachans, William Hogsyeard, James Russell, John Gibb & Robert Paterson, Elders and John Vallance Deacon and after the Session was constitute by Mr Dun, Robert Paterson was chosen clerk pro tempore and Me Vallance's affair being considered.

Compeared James Murdoch Innkeeper in Cumnock being called declared that at the last Candlemas fair he saw Mr Vallance in a laigh room of his house and there were sundry in the company and amongst others Ann Hunter above mentioned and they were also in company in a room where there was a show. Declares he does not remember of being in the cellar when Mr Vallance and Ann Hunter were but he saw them as thinks come out of the cellar together about nine o'clock at night and he saw no indecent behaviour betwixt them and this he declares to be the truth. (signed) James Murdoch. John Dun, Moderator.

Compeared John Russell shoemaker in Cumnock and he being examined anent the fama clamosa as to Mr Vallance declared the same in all things with James Murdoch the preceding declarant and further declares he never attempted to goe into the cellar door of James Murdoch the night above mentioned all which is truth. (signed) John Russell John Dun, Moderator.

Compeared Margaret Arthur servant to James Murdoch above designed. Being examined declares that Mr Vallance was in the cellar of her master's house the night of last Candlemas Fair about nine o' the clock with a woman she understood afterwards to be Ann Hunter and the did not continue together half ane hour. Declares she saw no indecent behaviour betwixt them nor was the door at

any time so shut as she could not open it and the declarant was going out and in during the time they were in the cellar and they drunk one bottle of ale and this is the truth and declares she cannot write and adds James Murdoch and Mr Vallance went into the cellar first and afterwards Ann Hunter went in to them. (Signed) John Dun, Moderator.

Eodem die Jean Telfort being called compeared and adhered to her former acknowledgement of guilt with Charles Good and he being cited to this dyet compered not and in regard there was an execution produced of his being cited the Session proceeded to examine the presumptive evidence of guilt who were cited to this dyet.

Compeared Jean Gibson in Boyleston, unmarried aged nineteen being purged of malice and partial council depones that on a Saturdays night likely as she thinks upon the fourteenth

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of February she went with Jean Telfort from the Bridgend to the Woodside and she called out Charles Good from his mother's house to speak with the said Jean and when he came he said she had been accusing him of being the father of her child to which she answered what could she do she knew what he had done about the mucking of these houses*. To which he replied it would not come to that time and she was bribed to lay the child to his charge. She declared she was not bribed all which truth as she shall answer to God and depones she cannot write. (signed) John Dun, Moderator.

**mucking of these houses – spreading dirt, an accusation of his having used her.*

Compeared William Smyllie shoemaker in Cumnock, unmarried aged twenty one being solemnly sworn purged and examined depones that about New yearsday last Charles Good came into William Murray's house master to the deponent wanting his shoes to be mended and amongst of the things Good told him and James King another journeyman shoemaker that he had twice carnal dealings with Jean Telfort. The deponent asked if it was at Mauchline Fair to which he said not and the said Good told when the deponent said was he not afraid that she would fall with child he was not for she was a kind of ??rigaud* creature and they had some other communing about it and he uttered some expressions about her condition which is not decent to put in writing and at that time there was no report of the said Jean Telfort being with child to any person causa sucutica partit and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. (signed) William Smillie John Dun, Moderator.

**Rigaud – I cannot find a reference to the word rigaud (or possibly rizaud) and believe that this might be a variation of rigart. If so, this is deeply insulting and means "an animal whose sexual organs are not properly developed"!!!*

Compeared James King, apprentice to William Murray shoemaker in Cumnock, aged eighteen unmarried being solemnly sworn purged and examined as above depones the same in all things with William Smyllie the preceeding witness causa scripture patit and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. (signed James King John Dun, Moderator

The Session having considered the above proof are unanimously of the opinion that Charles Good has been guilty of uncleanness with Jean Telfort and appoint the Clerk to send an extract of the procedure and sentence in this affair to Mr Mitchell Minister at Muirkirk in whose parish the said Good resides and allows the said Jean Telfort to appear before the Congregation and be rebuked for her sin. John Dun, Moderator.

Thereafter the following persons were called at the desire of Mr Vallance for his exculpation viz:

George Arthur, servant to Robert Paterson, Writer in Cumnock declares that he happened to be in the house of James Murdoch innkeeper in Cumnock in the evening of the last Candlemass fair and saw a woman who he was told was Ann Hunter abovementioned and as he declared was going out of the house, He looked over the all of the cellar and saw Mr Vallance sitting at a little distance from him and the declarant saw no indecency nor bad behaviour betwixt them and this he declares to truth. (signed) George Arthur John Dun, Moderator.

Compeared John McCowan, servant to Thomas Wallace, merchant in Cumnock and being examined declares that he was in the house of James Murdoch the night of the last Candlemas fair and he saw Ann Hunter goe into the cellar as he thinks about nine o' the clock and knows no more and that is the truth. (signed) John McCowan John Dun, Moderator.

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The Session having considered the above affair relative to Mr Vallance are unanimously of the opinion that he was imprudent to be in such company the day abovementioned but doe not find that there was any indecent behaviour betwixt him and Ann Hunter as was reported and therefore assoilzie him from the scandal and appoint intimation of this sentence to be made from the pulpit next Lord's day and in the meantime appoint the Moderator to admonish him at present for his imprudent behaviour. And Mr Vallance being called in the above sentence was intimated to him and he admonished accordingly.

The Session concluded with prayer. John Dun, Moderator.

Cumnock 15th March 1767

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, Mr Shaw Minister in Coylton, and all the members except James Russel.

Charles Good compeared and acknowledges himself guilty with Jean Telfer at Skirrintown about the end of June and as to the other time (he acknowledges himself to be guilty) he is uncertain.

The Session concluded with prayer. David Shaw, Moderator.

The said Jean Telfer having compeared three several times was rebuled and absolved from the scandal of her of fornication with Charles Good. (signed) Hugh McGeachin, Elder John Gibb, Elder.

Cumnock May 3rd 1767

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator Mr Cumming minister of Monkton and all the Elders.

Mr Patterson was unanimously chosen as presby Elder to attend the presbytery for half a year and at the same time the acts of Assembly was put in his hands.

The Session being informed that the Earl of Dumfries and Stair had given a presentation to Mr Thomas Miller preacher of the Gospel at Ednr (Edinburgh) to be minister of this parish do hereby appoint Mr Robert Patterson to petition the reverend presbytery in their name for a hearing of the said Mr Miller. (signed) John Cunningham, Moderator.

Cumnock June 7th 1767

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator Mr James Young Minister of the Gospell at New Cumnock and all the Elders.

The Session laid before them a petition signed by the Earl of Dumfries and Stair and the other residing Heritors to be given to the Presby next meeting on Wednesday first for moderating a call to Mr Thomas Millar to be the minister of this vacant charge who preached lately two days ago to the satisfaction of all, and we therewith concur with them in the sd petition, and have sign'd it.

Concluded with prayer. (signed) James Young, Moderator.

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Cumnock November 30th 1767

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator Mr Robert Patterson, William Hogsyard, Hugh McGeachin, John Gibb, Elders and John Vallance, Deacon.

The Session resuming the consideration of the affair of Mr Boswells scandal with Jean Fergusson they are of opinion that he should be anew cited before the Session and for that purpose they authorize the moderator to write the minister of Ayr in whose bounds he resides for having him legally summon'd before this Session the 29th of December next. Thomas Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 29th December 1767

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator, Mr Paterson, Mr Hogsyard, Hugh McGeachan, John McGeachan, John Gibb Elders, & John Vallance Deacon.

The Moderator acquainted the Session that he had two days before received a letter from Mr Boswell informing him "that Mr Dalrymple had signified to him the desire of the Session of Cumnock that he should attend them at this diet, which, as thinking it unnecessary, he declined doing". The Session having heard his letter to the Moderator read, are unanimously of opinion that he should be again legally cited to attend their next meeting & that an execution of the summons should be intimated, that the affair may be brought to an **issue**. The Moderator was authorised to write the Minister of Ayr thereanent.

Mr Paterson & John Gibb were appointed by the Session to revise the accts of the treasurer from the vacancy's taking place to the late ordination, & report.

The session concluded with prayer. Thomas Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock January 21st 1768

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders.

Compeard of consent this day John Boswell writer in Ayr and Jean ferguson, Jean Ferguson being questione'd adherd to all her former declarations and being further questiond that he has nothing to add thereunto. Mr Boswell upon hearing the whole of the procedure read over begg'd liberty to offer a few observations on the declarations of the witnesses which the Session admits of.

First – He must observe that being so often cited before the Session and never compearing as appears by sundry minutes in the book, may be look'd upon as a presumption against Mr Boswell but the Session are sensible of his leaving this part of the country and dwelling in Ayr since the beginning of June one thousand seven hundred and sixty six, from whence it appears evident that he could not attend their meetings of which he knew nothing of except the sederunt of the fifteenth of September 1766 to which he was cited by the Moderator from the bar and to which citation he gave the following answer that Mr Boswell being conscious to himself that it was not in the power of Jean Fergusson to bring any evidence against him to convict him of the crime she had charged him with and that she was welcome to bring whatever proof she thought proper Mr Boswell would never trouble himself to attend it.

2dly – with respect to the declarations the witnesses adduced the same can never make any proof on which judgement can follow, in regard that it appears *ex facie** in the declaration as the pursuer (as she may be term)

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hath dispensed with taking the witnesses oaths and supposing the witnesses had been put upon oath and swore to the storys told in these declations, there is nothing therein that can convict or be applied as a presumption against Mr Boswell as he is humbly of opinion.

**ex facie – on the face of it*

3dly – Mr Boswell cannot help observing that it was extremely prudent in the Session not to put these witnesses upon oath on account of the relation they stand in to Jean Fergusson viz James Fergusson and his spouse and which she herself declined.

4thly – with respect to the declaration of Jannet Sampson Mr Boswell looks upon her in the same light and of the same standing with this poor unhappy woman the pursuer, women famous for being “upon the town” but to return to Sampsons declaration it amounts to nothing more than this, that he bought from the declarant a penny worth of apples and which she says he gave to Jean Fergusson.

Mr Boswell with all submission to the Session does not see how that can be the smallest presumption against him, as he always said and still says that he remembers no such thing, and it just amounts to this whether Mr Boswell's memirie or Jannet Sampson's story is most to be depended upon. Besides all this the declaration does not agree with Jean Fergusson's story of the apples being about being about two or three weeks difference in point of time.

Upon the which Mr Boswell humbly hopes that the Session will have no difficulty to assoylie him from this groundless scandal. In respect whereof signed John Boswell.

The Session having taken the whole affair into their consideration are unanimously of opinion that it should be reported to the presby for their advice at next meeting and order their Clerk to make an extract of their whole procedure thereanent and this minute was intimate the parties then present.

Concluded with prayer. Thomas Millar, Moderator.

Cumnock January 25th 1768

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator, Mr Robert Paterson, Hugh McGeachan, and William Hogsyrd Elders.

Mr Robert Paterson and John Gibb the committee members for revising the treasurers accounts gave in a report finding that there remained on the 31st of August last a ballance of ?fourtie pounds five shillings and eleven pence three farthing sterling. Thomas Miller Moderator.

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Cumnock February 21st 1768

After prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator. John and Hugh Mcgeachans. William Hogsyrd & John Gibb Elders and John Vallance Deacon.

Agnes Jamieson late servant to Mr Johnston senior in Cumnock compeard, being cited, and judicially declar'd that she was with child to Alexander Johnston, son to Alexander Johnston deceast.

Edem die a letter was presented to the Session from said Alexander Johnston acknowledging that he was the father of her child, which letter was directed to the moderator and Session the tenor of which follows.

"Cumnock 3rd February 1768 Gentleman, as Agnes Jamieson has told some of the members of the Session that she is with chid, and accuses me with it, which thing is verily just, which I acknowledge, which is all, from Alexander Johnston."

Upon these acknowledgements the said Agnes Jamieson ask'd to be taken on the publick profession of her repentance she was rebuked in the Session, and her request being considered, was granted, accordingly she was appointed to compear before the congregation this afternoon, to be rebuk'd for the first time which was done accordingly.

Cumnock February 28th 1768

Agnes Jamison conpear'd being cited by the Moderator from the pulpit lat lor'd day and was rebuked for the second time.

The Session met between sermons, Sederunt the Moderator, John & Hugh McGeachins, William Hogsyrd Elders and John Vallance deacon.

The Moderator informed the Session, the said Agnes Jamieson intreated she might be taken on the publick profession of her repentance on the afternoon because of the vast inconvenience it was for her to attend another Sabbath considering the distance between this and Ochiltree where she now resides and the vast inclemency of the season.

The Session considering the request appoint William Hogsyard and Hugh McGeachin to converse with her and if they were satisfied with her knowledge and repentance upon report to the Moderator they agree that she be then rebuked, concluded with prayer.

Which report being made, Agnes Jameson was rebuked in the afternoon, which was done accordingly and absolved, which procedure the Session order to be engrossed this 29th February 1768 and an extract of her absolution was given her. Tho. Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock, March 28th 1768

The Session met after prayer.

Sederunt the Moderator, James Russel, Hugh mcGeachin, John Gibb & William Hogsyrd Elders.

The appointment was continued upon the Moderator for laying before the presby the reference lalative (relative) to the affair of John Boswell writer in Ayr and Jean Fergusson.

The Moderator, James Russell & John Gibb were appointed to examine the treasurer's accounts for the last half year and to report to next meeting of Session.

Concluded with prayer. Tho. Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock September 4th 1768

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator, Mr Paterson, James Russel, William Hogsyrd, John Gibbb and Hugh McGeachin Elders.

Margaret Arthur being cited, compear'd, and voluntarily acknowledged herself with child in fornication and gave up William Houston in parrish of Affleck* as the father of her child. The Moderator was authorised to write thereof to Mr Dunn, desiring the said Houston to be cited before this Session next Lord's day and order an extract of his summons to be given in.

Concluded with prayer. Tho. Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 18th September 1768

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator, Mr Paterson, William Hogsyard, John Gibb, Hugh McGeachin, John McGeachin Elders & John Vallance Deacon.

The Moderator informed the Session that at their desire he had wrote Mr Dun requesting that the above named William Houston should be cited to attend on this Session but that he had received no written answer to his letter, but was informed in conversation by Mr Dun that William Houston would this evening attend. Compeared accordingly the said William Houston & being exhorted to be

ingenuous & declare the truth, he declares that the said Margaret Arthur was at his father's house upon a night about Belton last & when she was leaving the house that evening he conveyed her, at his father's desire.

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In their way to Cumnock she informed him that her uncle was at ??? at Glisnock upon which he accompanied her into Cumnock & remained some time in the house with her, as he thinks about a quarter of an hour, declares there was no person in the house with the & refuses that he had any carnal dealings, at that, or at any other time, with Margaret Arthur.

Compeared at same time, being cited, Margaret Arthur & being again interrogated adheres to her former accusation of William Houston. Declares that the night above mentioned the said Houston staid some hours with her & had carnal knowledge of her in bed. That at no time since has she been with him & declares she cannot write & authorises the Moderator to sign this declaration. Tho. Miller, Moderator.

The Session unanimously resolved to delay the further consideration of this affair til in the course of providence they could obtain some light into it.

Concluded with prayer. Tho. Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock October 2nd 1768

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator and all the members.

David Vallance Session Clerk being to give up this role at Martinmas next, this day delivered up to the Session the following books, which had formerly been given to him as Session Clerk, vis this and another folio volume of their record, item a small octavo* volume from 16 Nov 1746 to 16 Nov 1758, likewise an octavo volume being the register of baptisms from 23 June 1737 and of marriages from 7 June 1758 to this date. Item an octavo volume being the register of the Session cash accounts from march 11th 1754 to this date, item an unbound volumes for registering the testimonials granted by or produced to the Session which books were lodged in the had of the Moderator till a Session Clerk bee appointed.

**octavo volume – appears to refer to the size of the book, rather than the number of volumes, probably about 8" to 10" in height.*

The Session at the same time authoriz'd their treasurer to pay to said David Vallance his salary to Martinmas next together with such wages as are due from poor scholars and payable by the Session upon a full discharge being granted for the same.

Cumnock October 9th 1768

This Session being constituted by prayer by Mr McMyrrie Moderator pro tempore.

Compeared Kathrine Angus of her own accord confessed she was with child & being farther interrogated who was the father of her child declared that Hugh Woddrow in the Parish of New Cumnock was the father of her child. Upon which she was seriously admonished by the Moderator.

The Session appoint the Minister to write to Mr Young to cause his officer to cite the said Hugh Woddrow to compear before this Session on this day fortnight to answer to the above accusation & Katharine Angus was summoned apud acta to compear on said day.

The meeting concluded with prayer. Duncan McMyrrie, Moderator.

Cumnock September 4th 1768

Sederunt after prayer, the Moderator and the whole Session.

The Moderator reported that he had wrote to Mr Young according to the appointment of the preceding meeting, but had received no answer. He was auththorised to write anew to Mr Young desiring that the above Woddrow should be cited to compear before this Session this day fortnight to answer to the accusations mention'd in last preceding minute. Katharine Angus was summoned apud acta to compear said day.

Mr Paterson was duly elected Presbytry Elder for the ensuing half year.

The meeting concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock 30th October 1768

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator and all the members.

The Moderator laid before the Session a letter from Hugh Woddrow acknowledging himself guilty of the charge laid against him by Kathrine Angus. The Session ordered the letter to be preserved in relentis & authorised the Moderator to acquaint Mr Young of Woddrow's acknowledgement.

The Session concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 6th November 1768

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator and all the members.

Compeared, being cited, Jean Fergusson in Cumnock, & being interrogated if she was with child, she acknowledged she was & being further interrogated who was the father of the child declared that George Borland late of Muirkirk was the father of her child. As the said Boreland has some time since left this country & this is a quadrilapse to the said Jean Fergusson, the Session resolved that this affair should be laid before the Presbytry for their advice.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 15th December 1768

Sederunt after prayer, the Moderator, James Russell, John & Hugh McGeachin, William Hogsyard, John Gibb & John Vallance.

The Session unanimously made choice of Mr George Swinton, Schoolmaster of this parish as their Clerk. Who being called, the oath de fidel administration was administered to him & the Moderator was authorised to deliver up to him the several books belonging to the Session & particularly mentioned in the minutes of 28th October last, which was accordingly done.

The Kirk Officer was ordered to cite Jean Fergusson to compear before the Presbytry to be held here on Thursday next the 22nd inst.*

The Session concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

**This Presbytery meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.*

Cumnock 15th December 1768

Sederunt after prayer, the Moderator, Mr Paterson, James Russell, John Gibb, Hugh McGeachin & William Hogsyrd.

The Session taking into consideration the time most convenient for dispensing the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper did agree that the same should be dispensed in this Congregation on the 19th February next, intimation of which was accordingly made from the pulpit.

Information being given that Margaret Arthur was delivered of her child & that the time corresponded with that she had formerly fixed upon for William Houston's carnal knowledge of her. The Session agreed that they should be both cited to compear before them next Lord's day & the Moderator was authorised to write to Mr Dun of Auchinleck desiring that he may cause Houston to be cited to compear before this Session that day.

Concluded with prayer. Th Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock February 26th 1769

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator and all the members of the Session except Mr Paterson.

The Moderator produced an execution of summons against William Houston at the instance of Margaret Arthur; the said Houston being called compeared. Compeared also ultroneously Margaret Arthur and they being severally interrogated, Houston persevered in denying and Arthur

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in accusing him of being the father of her child. And Arthur being asked if she had any further evidence to produce she desired that the following person James Houston in Underwood, John Russel in Auchinleck and Margaret Arthur in Cumnock should be cited to give evidence in this matter; and the Moderator was authorized to write to Mr Dun desiring that the forementioned persons might be cited to compear before this Session on Sabbath next. The Session further ordered their own officer to cite the foresaid Margaret Arthur to compear before the Session at the above time. The parties were cited apud acta.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 5th March 1769

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator, Mr Paterson, John McGeichan, John Gib, William Hogsyrd & Hugh McGeichan, Elders.

Compeared William Houston & Margaret Arthur and the question being again put to the said Houston, he continued to deny the charge ;aid against him by the said Margaret Arthur who being also interrogated continued to accuse the said Houston. And witnesses being cited for her, compeared John Russel, shoemaker in Auchinleck, unmarried aged thirty and upward, who being solemnly sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel, and being interrogated upon oath, depones that being in the house of James Murdoch in Cumnock in company with the said William Houston & Margaret Arthur, and also with James Houston Elder & Younger in Underwood Father and Brother to the said William Houston some weeks before the said Margaret Arthur's delivery. He the deponent did hear the said William Houston upon being desired by his father to take with Margaret Arthur's child say in a fit of passion You whore could I both take your maiden head & get you with child. Causa scientiae patet*. And this is the truth as he shall answer to God. (signed) John Russell

**causa scientiae patet – Latin. Literally “the scientific cause is clear”. A legal term for explaining how a witness came to a particular conclusion or to justify a train of thought – in this case, because it appears that Houston believes that a woman could not conceive that a woman could become pregnant the first time she had intercourse.*

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Compeared Margaret Arthur spouse to Adam Ralston in Cumnock, aged twenty eight years and she being solemnly sworn, purged and examined as above, depones that one night being the week after Margaret Arthur had accused William Houston before the Session, they met togeth in the house of the deponent and she having told him that she was with child, he answered if she had not been guilty with some other persons it could not be to him, and she having condescended on the night he replied that he should warrant that night should not have got a bairn. Causa scientiae patet, and this is the tuth as she shall answer to God and depones she cannot write. Tho Miller

The Session taking the whole affair into consideration are of the opinion that there are strong presumptions of guilt against the said William Houston and in hopes of bringing him to a sense of it, they resolved to put an extract of this whole affair into the hands of Mr Dun in Auchinleck under whose pastoral case the said Houston lives, that by him he may be dealt with to make an ingenuous confession.

Concluded with prayer. Tho. Miller. Moderator.

Cumnock April 23^d 1769

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator, Mr Paterson, John Gib, William Hogsyrd & Hugh McGeichan, Elders.

The meeting for electing a Presbytery Elder unanimously made choice of John Gibb and so Dundas's abridgement of the acts of Assembly was delivered him by Mr Paterson, late Presbytery Elder. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 4th June 1769

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator and all the members of Session.

Compeared being cited Agnes Simpson and being interrogated, confessed that she was with child, and being further interrogated who was the father of the child declared it was John Baird in Nether Town in this parish upon which she was admonished by the Moderator. The Session being informed that John Baird wants to converse with the Moderator upon this affair do therefore delay the farther consideration of it till they hear the result of that conversation. Agnes Simpson being interrogated declares she cannot write and authorises the Moderator to sign for her.

Concluded with prayer. Tho. Miller, Moderator

Cumnock July 2nd 1769

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator and all the members.

They, having considered what time would be most proper for dispensing the communion gave it unanimously as their opinion that the 23rd instant was most the convenient time for the parish. Intimation thereof was made from the pulpit same day accordingly.

Concluded with prayer. Tho. Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock August 6th 1769

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator & whole Session.

Moderator reported to the Session that John Beard and Agnes Simpson, who are now married are desirous to be taken upon the publick profession of repentance upon their paying the usual fine. The Session taking this into consideration unanimously granted the request, and they are ordered to compear next Lords Day. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock September 10th 1769

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator all the Session except Mr Paterson & John Vallance.

Compeared ultroneously Margaret Pearson, servt Garrallan & acknowledged herself to be with child & gave as the father George Gimmel servant in the same place. Compeared also utroneously George Gimmel and acknowledged himself the father of Margt Pearson's chilf. Being farther interrogated they said that they had been married since the month of January last as an evidence of which they produced to the Session the under written

"Graland Janry 19th 1769

We George Gimmel & Margret Pearson both servants in Graland do hereby own ourselves to be married & has done from the date aforesaid.

As witnesses our hands. Signed George Gemmel Margt Pearson."

The Session having taken this affair into their consideration were unanimously of opinion that the above paper is no evidence of their being married & defered the farther consideration of this affair

for particular reasons till some future opportunity. In the meantime ordered the above George Gemmel & Mary Pearson to sign this minute along with the Moderator, after which they were called in & exhorted and dismissed.

Concluded with prayer. (signed) George Gemll, Margt Pearson. Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock October 22nd 1769

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator all the Elders.

The Session meeting for electing a presbytery Elder unanimously made choice of James Russel.

Concluded with prayere. Thomas Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock April 29th 1770

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator all the Elders.

The Session meeting for electing a Presbytery Elder unanimously made choice of William Hogsyeard.

Concluded with prayer. Tho. Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock June 17th 1770

Sederunt all the Session save Mr Russel, after prayer.

The Session meeting to fix upon a day for dispensing the sacrament of the Lords supper, unanimously agreed to dispense it on July 15th, of which the Minister next Lords day is to make intimation from the pulpit. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock June 17th 1770

Sederunt all the Session save James Russel.

Compeared before them ultroneously Duncan Murdoch late of this parish now in the parish of Auchinleck, and acknowledges himself irregularly married to Mary Hare, late of this

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(This is a loose piece of paper referring to the case of William Houston and Margaret Arthur, and appears randomly placed within the Session record. It has been inserted in a random page in the Session book.)

"I James Brown curch officer give this exicuton testfing I sumond James Houston and John Russell to testfie what they knou of that afair of William Houstons and Margret Arthor to compair before your Session upon Saboth first with certification.

Auchinleck March 4th 1769."

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parish, now in the parish of Auchinleck. The Session referred the further consideration of this affair as Mary Hare his wife was not present.

Concluded with prayer. Tho. Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock August 21st 1770

After prayer, Sederunt the Moderator, John Gib, Hugh McGeachin & William Hogsyeard, Elders.

Compeared Duncan Murdoch & Mary Hare mentioned in the preceeding minute and being severally questioned did acknowledge themselves man & wife and further acknowledged their penitence for having irregularly married contrary to the rules of this church. The Session, having taken this affair into consideration agreed to give the aforementioned parties a Sessional rebuke & to exact of them a fine of four pounds Scots. And the parties having been called in were rebuked & fined accordingly.

Tho. Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock 29th January 1771

Sederunt after prayer, the Moderator, Hugh McGeachin, William Hogsyrd & John Gibb, Elders.

Upon an information of an alleged profanation of the Lord's day in the house of Hugh Crawford indweller in this place. Compeared ultroneously Margaret Mitchell spouse to the said Hugh Crawford and craved that the said affair should be inquired into – aledging that she could prove the information upon which it was grounded false & malicious. The Session taking her said request into consideration granted warrant to their officer to cite before them the following persons viz. James Murdoch, indweller in this place, Peter Ferguson shoemaker there, Baby King, spouse to James Anderson, dyer there, Janet King sister to said Bab'a King & Agnes Arthur spouse to Charles Crichton, carrier there. The Session agreed to meet on this affair tomorrow afternoon @ three o'clock & the said Margaret Mitchell was cited apud acta then to be present.

Concluded with prayer. Tho. Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 30th January 1771

Sederunt after prayer, ut supra.

The Session taking into consideration the above affair compeared James Murdoch and declared that he was informed of the above alledged profanation of the Lord's day in the house of Hugh Crawford by Agnes Airthur and declares that he knows nothing more of that affair.

Compeared the said Agnes Airthur, and declared that upon the evening of sabath the 13th instant she was informed by hear say that there had been something like quarrelling the evening before in

Hugh Crawford's house about 12 o'clock at night. Further declares that she informed James Murdoch of this hear say and knows nothing more of the matter.

Compeared Peter Ferguson, shoemaker in this place. Declares that he was in the house of Hugh Crawford on the evening of Saturday the 12th inst being old new years day.* That upon hearing a noise in Hugh's kitchen he went down stairs and found a broil had arisen twixt James Mitchel junior and Robert Morrison who with some other company were in the kitchen. He the declarant taking hold of Robert Morrison's arm took him up stairs to the room where he was sitting with Andrew Crawford and detained him there till he went home with him, as the declarant and he sleep together. Declares that the noise in the kitchen to the best of his knowledge ceased about a quarter before twelve, that he remained in the room above stairs with Robert Morrison till about a quarter of an hour past twelve in order to prevent the said Robert Morrison from meeting with James Mitchel, whose door they had to pass by in their way home. That upon coming down stairs in the company of the said Morison and Andrew Crawford at the above time they went into the kitchen & saw no-one there except Margaret Mitchell spouse of said Hugh Crawford, whom he desired to take notice that it was past twelve o'clock & that the broil was over a considerable time before. And that thereafter he & said Robt Morrison went immediately home. Being further interrogated declares that upon coming down stairs, he called for a bottle of ale & no more, which they drank, and that his

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Intention in so doing was to detain Robert Morrison so as to prevent his meeting with the said James Mitchel again.

*Old New Years Day – the start of the New Year by the old Julian Calendar

Compeared Babey King, spouse of James Anderson in this place. Declares that upon the above mentioned evening upon the border of twelve o'clock she went to the house of the said Hugh Crawford in order to bring home her husband who was there with some company. That upon coming there she staid no time, she found every thing while she was there & went directly home in company with her husband, her sister and Andrew Mitchel. Declares that when she left Hugh Crawford's that she saw nobody in the low part if the house but the said Hugh Crawford and that she knows nothing more of their affair.

Compeared Janet King & declares that upon the above mentioned evening she went between ten & eleven to Hugh Crawford's in order to take home James Anderson her brother in law. That she remained there for a considerable time, was present at the broil betwixt James Mitchel & Robert Morrison which happened as she thinks some time after eleven o'clock. That thereafter she remained there a little while till her sister came in, in whose company she went home. She is not perfectly sure but thinks it might be about twelve o'clock. Further declares that when they went home, she left no person in the lower part of the house but Hugh Crawford's family and that she knows no more of the affair.

The Session having considered the whole affair are unanimously of opinion that although the alleged profanation of the Lords day is not fully proven by the evidence of the above witnesses yet from their testimony there is sufficient grounds of censure against the said Hugh Crawford & Margaret Mitchel and are therefore of opinion that they should be rebuked before the Session and being called in they were rebuked accordingly.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 18th August 1771

Sederunt after prayer, the whole members of Session except James Russel.

The moderator acquainted the Session of his having received an extract of the minutes of the Kirk Session of Sanquhar bearing date the 4th & 9th instant which bear that Margaret McCale in Townhead of Sanquhar had judiciously acknowledged herself to be with child & had also judiciously accused James Murdoch Indweller in Cumnock as the father of her child. Compeared ultorneously the said James Murdoch and being acquainted of the above accusation, & solemnly exhorted to be ingenuous & being interrogated as to its truth he declared his willingness to compear before the Kirk Session of Sanquhar in order to vindicate himself from the said accusation, when called by them to do so. The Session appoint the Moderator to transmit an extract of the above declaration of James Murdoch to the Kirk Session of Sanquhar – that in as much as the fama hath broke out in that place they may take cognisance of this affair.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock 18th August 1771

Sederunt after prayer, Moderator, John Gib, Hugh McGeichen & William Hogsyd.

Compeared ultroneously Agnes Wilson, servant to James Rankin in this place. And being interrogated as to the truth of her being with child she acknowledged the same. And being further interrogated who was the father of the child, she solemnly declared that Alexander Patrick, son of John Patrick shoemaker in this place is the father of her child. Declared she cannot write & authorised the Moderator to sign this, her declaration. Tho Miller, Moderator.

And being exhorted to a sincere and unfeigned repentance she was cited apud acta to appear in this place next Thursday at mid day before the Session & dismissed. Alexander Patrick to appear before the Session at the same time to answer to the above allegation.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock October 19th 1771

Sederunt after prayer. Moderator, John Gib, Hugh McGeighen, William Hogsyd, Elders.

Compeared according to citation Alexander Patrick and Agnes Wilson. Who being interrogated dis adhere to her former declaration as to the said Alexander Patrick being the father of her child. And he being seriously exhorted to be ingenuous refused being father of the child, being further asked whether he was conscious of having had carnal knowledge of the saif Agnes Wilson, he refused to answer the question, saying he would take it into consideration. Agnes Wilson being asked if she had any particular presumptions to offer against the said Alexander Patrick said that he had been guilty with her three differet times, one of which she particularly condescended upon, being the night on which John Thompsons house was heated, which happened in the beginning of the week after midsummer fair in her mother's house in Cumnock. She further says that a fortnight ago, the said

Alexander Patrick & she had a meeting at Thomas McMillan's haystack. When upon his asking her to whom she was to give her child, she said to him. Thereafter he asked what she would have to give it to another to which she answered, that she would not give it to any other and would therefore accept of no money. And the said presumption being read to the said Alexander Patrick, he refused the truth of the whole. The parties being in the interim dismissed, the Session took this matter into consideration & were unanimously of opinion, that it should be delayed till it be seen whither the child answer the time she offers upon. In the mean time they allow the parties if they shall choose, all methods of proving or disproving their several allegations. They being called in, the same was intimated to them.

Concluded with prayer. Thomas Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock November 3rd 1771

Sederunt all the Session except James Russel after prayer.

Compeared according to citation Agnes Wilson. Alexander Patricj tho legally cited compeared not. And being sent to, refused to attend on this meeting of Session.

Compeared also James Mitchel, shoemaker in Cumnock, a witness cited at the desire of Agnes Wilson, and she having dispensed with his oath, and he being exhorted to be ingenuous in telling the truth, so far as should be asked of him declared that three or four days or thereabout after the interment of the late James Patrick, son of John Patrick shoemaker in

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In this place, being in the house of the said John Patrick he there met with the said Alexander Patrick who asked him if he had heard that Agnes Wilson accused him of being the father of her child, to which the declarant that he had heard so. Thereupon a conversation entered in the course of which Alexander Patrick declared that he would think nothing to take the child were it not for the expense of bringing it up. And this is the substance of what then passed and this declaration he signs. James Mitchell.

The Session adhered to their former resolution, namely to delay the whole matter till they see if the child came to the time she fixes on.

Cumnock 24th January 1772.

Sederunt after prayer, the Moderator, Hugh McGeachan, William Hogsyrd & John Gibb, Elders.

Compeared ultroneously Agnes Forgie in this town and acknowledged herself to be with child & being further interrogated acknowledged that Andrew Crawford in this place was the father of her child & that the guilt was committed at the last May fair.

Compeared also ultroneously the said Andrew Crawford & being exhorted to be ingenious as to the truth of the charge said against him by Agnes Forgie, he acknowledged himself to have had carnal knowledge of the said Agnes Forgie at the time mentioned by her, but refuses being the father of her child & alledged in proof of this 1st that she never had acquainted him with her being with child

till Monday's night past & 2nd that at the time above mentioned other persons also had to do with her or at least at that time there were at that time many unseemly appearances between her and others which he could prove. Agnes Forgie being interrogated as to these two particulars acknowledged the truth of the first of them but refuses positively the truth of the last allegation.

This acknowledgement is signed by the Moderator in place of the said Agnes Forgie who cannot write & by the said Andrew Crawford. Thomas Miller, Moderator. Andrew Crawford.

The parties being seriously exhorted to repentance of what both of them had confessed. The Session were of opinion that this affair should be delayed till it should appear whether the child came to answer the time particularly alleged, which was intimated to the parties, who were thereupon dismissed.

Concluded with prayer. Thomas Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 10th May 1772.

Session being constituted by prayer.

Compeared Peter Ferguson and Agnes Wood ultroneously and acknowledged themselves to be married on 26th December last and produced lies signifying that on the same date. Upon which the Session unanimously agreed that they should receive a Sessional rebuke for their irregular marriage, should pay the church dues & six shillings & eight pence to the poor and should sign that minute along with the Moderator. The rebuke they immediately received and agreed to pay the church dues and fine. (signed) Peter Ferguson. As Agnes Wood cannot write, the Session Clerk signed for her. Agnes Wood.

The Session being constituted unanimously made choice of Hugh McGeachin for Presbytery Elder for following half year.

Cumnock 15th November 1772.

The Session being constituted unanimously made choice of the said Hugh McGeachin for Presbytery Elder for the following half year.

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Cumnock 29th November 1772.

Sederunt after prayer, all the Session save John Vallance.

Compeared ultroneously Jean Douglas and acknowledges herself with child to Archibald Ferguson. Upon which she was cited to appear apud acta next Lord's day, also order ?? to the officer to see that Archibald Ferguson might be cited.

Cumnock 6th December 1772.

Sederunt after prayer, Moderator, Hugh McGeichen, William Hogsyrd & John Gib.

Compeared upon citation the above Archibald Ferguson and Jean Douglas.

Jean Douglas being interrogated repeated her former acknowledgement and now adhered to the same and further says that the guilt was committed the day after the May fair last in the house possessed by William Smith. And this is the truth and nothing but the truth, and declares she cannot write. Tho Miler.

The said Archibald Ferguson being exhorted to be ingenuous acknowledged being guilty with the said Jean Douglas at the time mentioned, but in as much as he declares that she is a woman of bad character refuses being the father of her child. (Signed) Archibald Ferguson Tho. Miller.

Being exhorted they were both dismissed.

Concluded with prayer. Tho. Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 30th December 1772.

Sederunt after prayer, the Moderator, Hugh McGeachan, John Gibb & William Hogsyeard, Elders.

Compearing ultroneously Jean Ferguson in Cumnock & acknowledges herself to be with child and being exhorted to be ingenuous in telling the whole truth she further acknowledged that William Clarke, shoemaker, now living with Charles Johnstone is the father of her child & that the guilt was committed in the house of John Semple while he was from home some time in the month of September last. And being further interrogated if she has any other presumptions to offer said she had none, and this is the truth & declaring she cannot write. Tho Miller, Moderator.

The session remarked that this was a fifth lapse into fornication by Jean Ferguson Desirous however of coming to the truth in this affair, Jean Ferguson was cited apud acta to compear before this Session on Sabbath evening next, and their officer was ordered to cite the above William Clarke then also to compear in order to answer to Fergusson's accusation of him.

Concluded with prayer. Thomas Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 3^d January 1773.

Sederunt Moderator and all the Elders.

Compeared William Clark & Jean Ferguson above mentioned. Jean Ferguson being interrogated if she adhered to her above declaration answered in the affirmative. And William Clark being called and exhorted to be ingenuous said that he would neither confess nor deny, but would take it into further consideration. And being further asked if he had any more to say, answered he had not. The Session taking this affair into consideration were unanimously of opinion that from William Clarks own words there is the strongest presumption for the truth of Jean Fergusons accusation of him as in the above minute.

Parties being called in, this unanimous opinion of the Session was intimated to them.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller.

Cumnock 16th May 1773.

Sederunt after prayer, all the session.

The Minister reported that as desired he had spoken to Mary Sloan Symonton who acknowledged to him her being with child and promised to attend this diet of Session. She not having attended the officer was ordered to summon her against this day se'ennight.

Compeared William Clark shoemaker in this village whom Jean Ferguson had given up as the father of her child, and offered to prove that she had given it to another before having given it to him, and craved that the following witnesses might be cited for this end Viz John Gib, one of the members of the Session, who was called apud acta, James Ferguson indweller in this place, and Cathrine Goldie his wife, who were ordered to be accordingly cited to attend a meeting of this Session tomorrow evening and the officer was ordered to cite Jean Ferguson to attend that meeting.

The session unanimously made choice of William Hogsyeart as Elder to attend on the presbytery this current half year.

Concluded with prayer. Thomas Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 21st May 1773.

Sederunt after prayer, Moderator, Hugh mcGeachin, John Gib, William Hodgert, Elders.

James Ferguson and Cathrine Goldie his wife, not having been able to attend on Session Monday last the Session adjourned till this evening at 6 o'clock afternoon and ordered an intimation to be given thereof to all parties concerned and further ordered their officer to cite Mary Sloan to appear at this diet which he reported he had accordingly done.

Compeared according to citation the said Mary Sloan and being judicially interrogated as to the truth of her being with child, acknowledged she was; and being further interrogated how long she had been with child answered since Whitsunday last, being about a twelve month ago. Being further exhorted to be ingenuous as to who was the father of her child, she declared that George Murdocjh, son to Francis Murdoch in Orchardton was the father of her child and further declared that she had criminal intercourse with the said George Murdoch at the time above mentioned and never since. And declares that this is the truth and that she cannot write. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Compeared ultroneously the said George Murdoch, and the above declaration being read in his hearing, he acknowledged the truth of it in so far as to being guilty with Mary Sloan at the time mentioned, but positively refused being the father of the said Mary Sloans child, having never by her own acknowledgement, been guilty with her since, and this is the truth. (signed) George Murdoch.

The parties were ordered to remove, and the Session taking the matter into consideration, were unanimously of opinion that from the said Maty Sloan's declaration, it appeared that the said George Murdoch was not the father of her child, and therefore that she should be further interrogated about this matter. And they being called in, and the said Mary Sloan being further pressingly exhorted to be ingenuous, she adhered to her former declaration and added that she could do so with the greater truth, having never been guilty with any other person. She being further interrogated at what time she first notified to George Murdoch her being with child by him, she

answered upon Monday was eight days being the 10th instant, and that the reason for her not having spoken of it to him sooner was that the matter had not till then become public.

The parties being exhorted to repentance were dismissed.

Thereafter compeared William Clark and Jean Ferguson being called did not appear. The Session not being able to proceed to this affair by her absence, the said William Clark craved that she & the witnesses formerly mentioned should be cited pro tertio and that intimation should be made to the said Jean that if at this citation she should not appear the Session would proceed to take the declarations of the witnesses notwithstanding her absence.

The Session delayed this affair till this day se'ennight being the 28th instant.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

N.B The above affair of Clark and Ferguson was delayed from different intervening reasons till the date undermentioned when the witnesses before mentioned were regularly cited to attend.

Cumnock 23rd June 1773.

Sederunt after prayer, the Moderator, Hugh McGeachan, John Gibb & William Hogsyrd Elders.

Compeared according to citation the above Jean Ferguson & being interrogated whither she adhered to her former declaration as to William Clarks being the father of her child, of which she was delivered on the 23rd of May last, declares he is & that no

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other besides him is the father of her child.

Compeared also ultroneously the said William Clarke & craved that the following questions be put to John Gibb, one of the Elders now present. 1st Whether the said Jean Ferguson did not privately to him accuse another person as the father of her child. And 2nd Whither or not in the house of James Ferguson she did not desire the said John Gibb to conceal the person she had first accused. And the said questions being put, the said John Gibb answered to the first affirmative – and to the second that being occasionally in the house of James Fergusson, he there mett with the said Jean Fergusson, who then did accuse William Clark as the father of her child, but does not recollect that she desired him to conceal the person whom she had formerly accused, as she said she had accused him wrongeously.

Compeared according to citation James Ferguson & his wife Cathrine Goldie and being severally interrogated declared their entire ignorance of this matter. William Clark craved extracts of the whole which was given.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

No date

Sederunt after prayer, Moderator William Hogsert, Hugh McGeachin & John Gib, Elders.

Compeared James Ralson & Mary Mitchel utroneously and produced the following lines.

“Glasgow Nov 24th 1772. These certify that Jas Ralston from parish Cumk & Mary Mitchel from parish of Sorn came before me demanding marriage which I finding reasonable, and having taken solemn oaths the were no ways related in God’s holy words in consanguinity of blood, forbidden thereon, I therefore administrate to them the holy band of matrimony. In presence of James and John Stuarts both my servants they declare they cannot writte. (signed) Jas Ralston William Mitchal Minr.”

The Moderator put the question severally to the parties if they acknowledged themselves man & wife which they answered in the affirmative. The Session deferred for some time the consideration of the matter and recommended to the Moderator to speak with them privately.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

NB James Ralston made a public profession of his repentance for the above.

Cumnock 19th September 1773.

Sederunt after prayer, the Moderator & all the members of Session.

Compeared Janet Mclrrow in Teaglim and judiciously acknowledged herself to be with child & being exhorted to be ingenuous in giving up the father of her child she declared that George Ducket in Geltwork is the father of her child. She was Sessionally rebuked & cited apud acta to compear before the Session this day se’ennight – till wich time for reasons given in the Session, the farther consideration of this affair was delayed.

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 30th October 1773.

Sederunt after prayer, the Moderator & all the members of Session except John Vallance.

John McGeachan to whom it was remitted to commune with George Ducket mentioned in the foregoing minute, produced a letter from said Ducket, dated 2nd October instant, acknowledging his having had criminal intercourse with Janet Mclrrow, but @ same time craving that the Session would delay giving any judgement on this affair, till it was seen by the actual delivery of Janet Mclrrow whither she had rightly charged him with being the father of her child.

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Janet Mclrrow being called in, the above was intimated to her – upon which she abruptly left the Session. Altho having for some time waited for her return & she not compearing for her own interest the Session judged Duckets requisition to be so reasonable that they agreed to comply with it. And did accordingly delay the the farther consideration of this affair till the time of Mclrrow’s delivery, and ordered meantime George Ducket’s letter to be kept by the Treasurer in relentis.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock 31st October 1773.

Sederunt after prayer, the Moderator & all the members of Session except John Vallance.

John & Hugh McGeachan reported to the Session that on Wednesday last George Duckett acknowledged to them his being guilty with Janet Mcirrow @ the time specified by her & that being unwilling to give the Session any further trouble about this affair he authorised the said two Elders to report his said acknowledgement to this Session. The Session in consequence of said acknowledgement & at the request of Janet Mcirrow appoint her to make her first public appearance for a relapse.

William Hogsyard was unanimously reelected Presbytery Elder for the ensuing half year.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 2nd January 1774.

Sederunt after prayer, the Moderator & all the Elders.

Compeared ultroneously Janet Woodrow in Rottenyard in N. Cumnock and acknowledged herself to be with child, and being exhorted to be ingenuous in confessing the whole truth as to the father of her child, she said that James Campbell, son to Hugh Campbell indweller in Cumnock is the father of her child and that the guilt was committed about the middle of April last when she was residing in Caponacre in this parish.

James Campbell having been cited before accordingly appeared and being exhorted to be ingenuous in telling the whole truth . Upon being interrogated as to his being the father of Janet Woodrow's child he repeatedly asserted that he was not and further denied all guilt with her. And the said Janet Woodrow being interrogated if she had any presumptions to give in proof of her charge against James Campbell declared that the guilt was committed in the house of Janet McCowan in Caponacre at the time above mentioned, that the said Janet McCowan will testify that James Campbell was more than twice or thrice in the house in company with the accuser Janet Woodrow who further declares that one night in particular, that the said Campbell came to her in company with Charles Good & Robert Crichton and that they having thrust Campbell into the house went away, and that Campbell remained with her about two hours. She further declares that he was often with her after the time mentioned above, and that it was always at untimous hours, that is, in the night time. The said James Campbell being further interrogated as to all the above presumptions mentioned by Janet Woodrow acknowledges being in company with her along with Charles Good & Robert Crichton, and that after all the three had staid with her some short while, they all three

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left her together. And being further interrogated refuses his being with her in Caponacre any other time. The Session having considered the whole matter are unanimously of opinion that the presumptions given do not amount to such a proof as the law requires but they allow the accuser Janet Woodrow to prove if she thinks proper some of the above allegations. The parties being called in, the above was intimated to them, and Janet Woodrow being rebuked upon her own acknowledgement both parties were dismissed. Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock 4th October 1774.

Sederunt after prayer, the Minister, Hugh McGeachan & William Hoggart, Elders.

Compeard, on citation, Grizel Crawford daughter of Hugh Crawford indweller Cumnock and being interrogated as to the truth of her being with child in fornication, she acknowledged the same. Being further interrogated, who was the father of her child, she repeatedly declared that Hugh Dalrymple, sone of Hugh Dalrymple, writer in Cumnock, was the father & that he had been guilty with (her) in Charles Crichton's yard on or about the second week of Aprile last & desired the Minister judiciously to sign for her this her declaration. Tho Miller, Minister.

Compeared at the same time the said Hugh Dalrymple and being exhorted to be ingenuous as to the charge laid against him, & acquainted with the same, he repeatedly denied his being the father of the said Grizel Crawford's child & farther denies his ever having had any carnal knowledge of her & this is the truth. (signed) Hugh Dalrymple. Tho. Miller, Minister

(The following entries are out of order in the Session record, due to the page being inserted the wrong way round.)

Cumnock 18th December 1774.

Sederunt after prayer, the Moderator and all the members of Session.

Compeared ultroneously Margaret Brown late living in Hill, in this parish and acknowledged herself to be with child in uncleanness & charged John Wight, late residing in Hill, & now residing in (blank space) Ochiltree Parish, with being the father of her child. The Minister in name of the Session was authorised to write to Mr Reid, Minister of Ochiltree to cite before that Session the said John Wight to answer to the said charge & to report ad the said Margaret Brown, being advised to give her attendance on said Session of Ochiltree was dismissed.

Thereafter appeared ultroneously Mary Black daughter of James Black in Logan hils, & acknowledged herself to be with child in fornication and being exhorted to be ingenuous in giving up the father she solemnly charged (blank space) Neil late servant to William ??Moore in Shield with being the father of her child. The said Neil having of late left this parish, the Session coud proceed no farther in this affair, but Mary Black was advised to get intelligence where he was, that the affair might be farther enquired into. She being Sessionally rebuked & exhorted to repentance on her own acknowledgement, was dismissed.

Mr 33e, lately elected schoolmaster of this parish was elected Session Clerk & the oath de fideli administratione tendered to him.

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(This page is out of order and should follow the entry on the previous page in relation to Grizel Crawford.)

Parties were removed and the Session were of opinion that Grizel Crawford should be rebuked Sessionally on her acknowldgement and that the further consideration of this affair, the Session being thin, should be deferred till next meeting, fixed for Sabbath se'ennigh when parties were apud

acta summoned to attend & Grizel Crawford was ordered to produce any presumptions she had to offer in proof of her charge against Hugh Dalrymple. Parties being called in the above was done. Grizal Crawford rebuked & both of them cited to attend next meeting of Session. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 16th October 1774.

Sederunt after prayer, the Minister and Hugh McGeachin, John McGeachin, John Gibb & William Hoggart, Elders.

Compeared the above designed Grizel Crawford. Hugh Dalrymple being called compeared not. The

Said Grizel Crawford being questioned as to any presumptions she had further to offer in proof of her charge against Hugh Dalrymple, she said she had none other. The Session considering this affair & that one of the parties was not present, agreed unanimously to delay pronouncing judgement on it to a future day.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock November 1774.

Sederunt after prayer, the Minister & all the above Elders except John McGeachin.

Compeared both of the above parties, Grizel Crawford on her being questioned could produce no presumptions against said Hugh Dalrymple. The affair was therefore dismissed & said Dalrymple being to leave this parish was allowed a certificate.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock 12th February 1775.

Sederunt after prayer, present the Moderator and all the members of Session.

Compeared Mary Black mentioned in a former minute. There was read in her hearing a letter produced by the Minister & addressed to him of date the 24th of January 1775 & signed David Neil acknowledging his guilt with Mary Black & expressing his willingness to take with her child if it come to his time which is the 16th Feb 1775. Mary Black being interrogated as to the contents of said letter acknowledged the said David Neil being guilty with her on the 16th of May last. The Session taking into consideration her acknowledgement & comparing it with the said David Neils letter find that they exactly agree together but did not give judgement till the said Mary Black's delivery.

Cumnock April 16th 1775.

Sederunt after prayer, present the Moderator and all the members of Session.

The moderator reported that he had wrote to the Minister of Kilwinning to cause David Neil to be cited before their Session in order to make a judicial confession of his being guilty with Mary Black

and that he had received an extract from the minutes of that Session importing that the said David Neil had judicially acknowledged himself the father of Mary Blacks child.

Cumnock June 10th 1775.

Sederunt after prayer, present the Moderator and the members of Session.

The Minister acquainted the Session that last week Betty Kay in Humeston came to him & acknowledged her being with child & gave up as the father of her child John Gemmel in Boas. The minister further represented that he had caused cite the said Betty Kay and John Gemmel to this meeting, the said parties being called John Gemmel did not appear. Betty Kay appeared & adhered to her former

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Acknowledgment upon which she was Sessionally rebuked & dismissed after being cited apud acta to attend the Session Thursday come eight days to which meeting the Kirk Officer was ordered to cite the said John Gemmel.

Cumnock July 2nd 1775.

Sederunt Ministers & Elders.

Compeared being called John Gemmel in Chang & Bessie Kay in Humeston. The said Bessie Kay being interrogated adhered to her former declaration that John Gemmel was the father of her child & the said John Gemmel being interrogated ingenuously confessed his being guilty with the said Bessie Kay & further declared that he was guilty about the middle of December last & this is the truth. (signed) John Gemelle.

Cumnock December 3rd 1775.

Sederunt after prayer, present the Minister and Session.

John McGechen was chosen presbytrie elder for this current half year.

Compeared upon citation Jane Mcewen, daughter of James McOwen in Pavoch hill & being interrogated acknowledged herself to be with child & solemnly declared that Gavin Howat, couper in New Cumnock is the father of her child & that the guilt was committed in this place the last June Fair & this is the truth and declares that she cannot write. Tho Miller.

Was Sessionally rebuked & cited apud acta to appear before the session this day se'enight & the Minister was authorised to write to Mr Young desiring the said Gavin Howat to be cited to compear before this Session to answer to the charge laid against him. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock December 10th 1775.

Sederunt after prayer, present the Minister and Elders.

Compeared Jane Mcowen mentioned in the last minute & her former declaration being read over to her she adhered to the same. Compeared also upon citation Gavin Howat & being exhorted to be ingenuous he solemnly denied being guilty with Jane Mcowen. She was questioned what presumption she had to offer in proof of the truth of her charge & answered that he had been guilty with her in the fields that before they went out to the fields he was with her in Mrs Johnstons house at the Craighead that they were seen there together by Nelly Johnston daughter of Janet McLonechie in Cumnock, that after remaining there a little while they left said house & were seen in their way to the Barhill by Agnes Howat, wife to to William McGeachan, weaver in Cumnock, which Agnes Howat saw them passing her close mouth, The said Gavin being interrogate as to the above particulars declared them all to be false. Jean Mcowen adhered to her declaration and craved that these witnesses

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Agnes Howat & Nelly Johnston should be cited in evidence of Gavin Howat as to her being seen in company at the time libeled. The Session delay the further consideration of this affair till Friday next, when the above witnesses are to be cited to attend & the parties are cited apud acta then to attend.

Cumnock December 15th 1775.

Sederunt after prayer, present the Minister and Session.

Compeared Gavin Howat & Jane Mcowen according to citation. The Session entered the consideration of their affair & compeared upon citation Hellen Johnston, daughter to Janet McLonichie indweller in Cumnock. Jane Mcowen the party at whose instance she was called waved taking her oath & contented herself with her bare declaration & she being interrogated whether or not she saw the parties in the House of Mrs Johnston in the Craighead declares that she does not remember that she saw either the one or the other there that day. Being further interrogated at the instance of the pursuer whether Gavin Howat did not order her the witness to let nobody into the room where they were declares that she remembers to have received no such order from Gavin Howat nor does she recolect that she saw him there that day though he might have been there unknown to her, the defender declares that he might have been there two or three times that day upon business as it is the house he usually frequents in town.

Compeared also upon citation Agnes Howat, wife to William McGechen weaver in Cumnock, the pursuer also waved to take her oath & contented herself with the winnenses bare declaration, who being interrogated if she remembers to have seen two persons passing by her close mouth the evening of the last June fair declares that she remembers to have seen the pursuer Jane Mcowen pass at that time and that she was followed by a young man whomshe the witness did not know but was told by some other person that his name was Gavin Howat in Castle, being asked who that other person was who had told her so declares she cannot now recollect. The defender Gavin Howat being pointed out to her in the Session & she being asked if she remembers him to be the person she saw pass after Jane Mcowen declares she does not as he was unknown to her.

The Session taking this whole affair into consideration were unanimously of opinion that Jane Mcowen has failed in proving the presumptions forementioned by her of Gavin Howats being in company with her at the time given up by her and they further unanimously resolved to delay the consideration of the affair till some future time when more light might be thrown upon it. The

parties being called in the above was intimated to them whereupon Gavin Howat took instruments* & craved extracts.

Concluded with prayer.

**instruments - legal documents*

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Cumnock February 25th 1775.

Sederunt after prayer, present the Moderator and all Session.

Compeared upon citation Marion Crawford daughter to William Crawford in Barbiston in Auchinleck parish. David Kenedy regularly cited compeared not, the said Marion Crawford being interrogated as to her having lately brought forth a child she acknowledged the truth of the same and being solemnly exhorted to be ingenious in giving up the father of her child she declared that David Kenedy in Netherthird in this parish a married person is the father of her child and that the guilt was committed in his own house in Netherthird about two or three weeks before last Whitsunday old stile. And this is the truth and declares she cannot write. Thomas Miller.

She was rebuked upon her acknowledgement. The Session as she did not reside in this parish could not of themselves cite her to compear before them at their next meeting on Thursday first but recommended it to her to appear for her own intrest. They ordered their officer to cite David Kenedy pro secundo to attend their meeting at the above mentioned time.

Concluded with prayer. Thomas Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock February 29th 1776.

Sederunt after prayer, present the Minister and all the Elders except John McGechen.

The officer reported that he had regularly cited David Kenedy to attend this meeting, the said David Kenedy being thrice regularly called at the Kirk door did not appear. Marron Crawford being called appeared, she was asked if she adhered to her former accusation and declared that she did. Thereafter the Session authorised their officer to cite the said David Kenedy pro tertio to attend their meeting which is hereby adjourned to Sabbath afternoon with certification that if he shall not attend said meeting he shall be cited to appear before next meeting of the Presbytery at Ayr to be held at Ayr the 27th day of March next & the said Marron Crawford was ordered by the Session to appear at their next meeting for her own intrest.

Cumnock Kirk March 3rd 1776.

Sederunt after prayer, present the Minister and all the Elders.

Marion Crawford mentioned last minute compeared. David Kenedy being called did not compear. The officer reported that he had regularly cited him. The Minister presented & read before the Session a letter signed David Kenedy & addressed to him the tenor whereof follows-

"Marion Crawford hath falsely accused me of scandal or carnal dealings I am free with her all at ?? from... (page damaged, unreadable)

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The Session unanimously refer this whole affair to the Presbytrie of Ayr to meet at Ayr the 27 day of March & order their officer to cite him to appear there at said meeting and the minister was authorised to write to Mr Dun of Auchinleck to cite the said Marion Crawford to appear also at said meeting.

Cumnock April 20th 1776.

Sederunt after prayer, present the Minister and all the Elders.

The following persons were unanimously nominated to the office of Eldership viz William Dunbar in Gelt, James Rankin in Auchingilcie, Hugh Sloan in White-hill & Robert Smith in Pennyfadzeuch & their edict was appointed to be served after the afternoon service & to be returned against this day fortnight.

The Session further unanimously agreed the Communion of the Lords Supper shall be dispensed in this Congregation on Sabbath the 19th of May next & the same to be intimated this afternoon at the conclusion of divine service.

Cumnock 24th May 1776.

Sederunt after prayer, present the Minister and all the Session except John McGechen.

Compeared upon citation James Clerk and Mary McKie both of this parish. She acknowledged herself to be with child & being asked to whome gave up James Clerk as the father of her child. The said James Clerk being interrogated as to the truth of the said charge acknowledged his having had carnal knowledge of Mary White about the first of January last which she also acknowledged and this the truth. James Clerk refuses to sign the acknowledgement & Mary McKie not being able to write legally authorised the Minister to sign it for her. They were Sessionaly rebuked. Tho Miller

The Session concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock June 11th 1776.

Sederunt after prayer, present the Moderator and all the Elders except William Hogerth & John McGeachin.

The officer reported that agreeable to appointment of Session he had cited David Kennedy in Netherthird pro secundo, the said David Kennedy being called did not compear. Marion Craford appeared ultroneously. The Session on account of his not being present delayed the farther consideration of Marion Crawfords charge against him till the 10th instant & in the meantime their officer to cite David Kennedy pro tertio then to appear before them.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller.

Cumnock June 21st 1776.

Sederunt the Moderator and Hugh McGechen, William Hogarth & Robert Dunnipace, Elders.

The Session resumed the affair of Gavin Howat and Jane Mcowen mentioned in a former minute Dec 15th 1775. The said parties being called compeared, the said Jane Mcowen being asked adhered to her former accusation of Gavin Howat and the said Gavin Howat being also interrogated solemnly denied the truth of Jane Mcowen's accusation.

Appeared at the instance of Jane Mcowen the pursuer, William Hanna in Cumnock aged sixty & upwards who being solemnly sworn & purged of malice & partial counsel declares that on the evening of the June fair 1775 between 6 & 7 o'clock at night he saw two persons a man and a woman in an unseemly posture at the foot of the fold, being further interrogated if he knew either of the persons declares he did not and being further interrogated whither he recolected from now seeing Gavin Howat & Jane Mcowen that these were the persons whom he saw in that posture declares he does not recollect because he was not so near them as to be able to distinguish their faces but only recolects the man was dressed in a brown coat & a red vest with a cardinal plaid and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. (signed) William Hanna.

The defender Gavin Howat having heard the above declaration waves asking any questions at the witness as no part of his declaration affects him, the defender. The Session taking into their consideration this whole affair are unanimously of opinion that the presumption offered by Jane Mcowen against Gavin Howat however strong in themselves do not yet affect him as one of her witnesses testimony rests on hearsay evidence and that of the other declares his entire ignorance of the persons seen by him in an unseemly posture and therefore the Session upon the whole of the evidence before them did and hereby do assoilzie the defender Gavin Howat from the scandal of the accusation laid to his charge.

The parties being called in the above sentence was intimated to them in which Gavin Howat acquessed but Jane Mcowen protested & took instruments in the Clerks hands and appealed the cause to the Presbytrie of Air at their next meeting and craved leave to have extracts which were ordered to be given.

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Cumnock August 11th 1776.

After prayer, present the Moderator and all the Session except Hugh McGechen and John Gibb.

Compeared ultroneously Mary Lambie an unmarried person, daughter to John Lambie in Donaldston & acknowledged herself to be with child in uncleannes & gave as the father of her child Robert Crichton, son to Edward Crichton ind?? In Cumnock & further declared that the guilt was committed about the end Feb or beginning of March last in Donaldson. The said Robert Crichton having been summoned did not attend the Session. He was ordered to be summoned pro secundo to attend next meeting of Session which is ?? for this day se'enight and the said Mary Lambie was cited apud acta to attend that day's meeting after being rebuked was dismissed.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock August 18th 1776.

After prayer, present the Moderator and all the Session.

Robert Crichton & Mary Lambie were called. The former appeared not, the latter compeared & adhered to her former declaration.

The Session ordered Robert Crichton to be cited this day se'enight pro tertio with verification & Mary Lambie was cited apud acta to attend the same day.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock August 26th 1776.

After prayer, present the Moderator, Hugh McGeachan, John Gibb & William Hoggert.

Compeared on citation Robert Crichton mentioned in former minutes & Mary Lambie. The said Robert Crichton being interrogated as to the truth of Mary Lambie's accusation of him acknowledged guilt with her at the time she mentions. (signed) Robert Crichton.

Being exhorted suitably the parties were dismissed and the Session concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

P.355 and 356

This page is a printed copy of the "Act of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, in Relation to Vagrant Beggars".

P357

This is a page of baptisms from June 1749 until July 1752. Where I can read them, I have added the names to the index for this volume and to Cumnock Connections.

P358

This is a further page of baptisms from July 1750 to ?? - partially unreadable. Where I can read them, I have added the names to the index for this volume and to Cumnock Connections.

P.359

This is a Testimonial from minister John Dun of Auchinleck, vouching for the character of James Arthur and his wife Jean Haddo, dated 26th February 1768.

P.360

This is a title page or envelope for the above Testimonial.

P.361

This is a handwritten letter from Alexander Johnston acknowledging that the accusation by Agnes Jamison that he had fathered her child was "verily just".

P.362

This is the handwritten cover or envelope for the above letter from Alexander Johnston.

P.363

This is a baptism record for George Caldow, dated 24th July 1774.

P.364

This is a handwritten letter to the Session from David Kennedy dated 24th February 1776.

P.365

This is the handwritten address/envelope for the above letter from David Kennedy.

P.366

This is a damaged page which appears to be a will/financial bond or property transfer. The date is missing as the page is torn.

P.367

This is a page which appears to be the reverse of the above document. There are some figures which could be sums of money, but it is mainly illegible due to ink bleed from the other side of the page and there is no context.

End of Volume 2.

