

Volume 3 – 1777 until 1815.

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.

Cumnock 23rd February 1777

Sederunt after Prayer, the Minister & all the Elders, except Mr Dunnipace.

Compeared George Drummond & Janet Kay both in this parish & being asked if they were married to each other they acknowledged the same, & being further asked by whom & where they had been married they produced the following lines, "I here do certify that the bearers here of George Drummond & Janet Kay came before me and declared they were unmarried persons & not within the degrees forbiddin in God's word, nor no impediment being found after sincere enquiry were accordingly married by me at Glasgow the 12th day of August 1776 years, before three witnesses after subscribing with me, (Signed John Smith Chaplain, John Brown witness, William Wilson witness.)

They also produced before the Session a certificate signed by Hugh Logan of Logan ?? of their having acknowledged themselves married person & been fined by him for their irregular marriage. They were asked by the minister if they adhered and were willing to adhere to each other and upon declaring they were, he declared them married persons and they were required to sign this minute along with him. (Signed) Thomas Miller, Minister, George Drummond, JK – Janet Kay, her mark.)

The y were rebuked and dismissed.

Concluded with prayer. Thomas Miller.

Cumnock 28th February 1777

Sederunt after Prayer, present the Minister & all the Elders except John McGechen and John Gib.

Compeared upon citation Mary Sloan in Symington and acknowledged herself to be with child and accused James Donaldson ?? to Lord Dumfries as the father of her child and that the guilt was committed June last. She was Sessionally rebuked and dismissed.

The Minister reported to the Session that he had acquainted Mr Donaldson with the above accusation who acknowledged the truth of it. The Minister authorised to procure written acknowledgement from Mr Donaldson to the above purpose and to report to the Session.

Agreeable to the above resolution the Minister produced and read a letter from Mr Donaldson dated March 1st 1777 which is as follows, " Revd Sir I understand that Mary Sloan in Symington has accused me of fornication, the same I acknowledged and hope the Session will receive this as my acknowledgement."

Cumnock May 15th 1777

Sederunt after Prayer, the Minister & all the Elders.

The Minister reported to the Session that this morning Mary Bond and unmarried person lately residing in Logan had ultroneously before him and two members of Session, viz John Gib & Hugh McGechan acknowledged herself to be with child & being interrogated who was the father of her child she declined making the same known at present.

The Session delayed the farther consideration of above affair for some time till they hear where the above Mary Bond is to reside as she has now left the parish.

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Cumnock 26th April 1778

Sederunt after Prayer, the Minister & all the Elders.

Compeared ultroneously James Thomson, son of John Thomson in Bowes & Euphan Hastie, late residing in Dumfries House & acknowledged themselves to have been married in an irregular manner in Glasgow on the 10th March last as appeared from their lines of marriage which they produced. They were asked if they mutually adhered to their marriage engagements & upon their declaring they did they were declared married persons and signed this minute along with the minister. (Signed) Thomas Miller, James Thomson, Eupheme Hastings.

They were Sessionally rebuked & for the time dismissed.

Hugh McGechan was elected Presbytry Elder.

Concluded with prayer, Tho Miller, Minister.

Cumnock 23rd July 1778

Sederunt after Prayer, the Moderator & members of Session.

Compeared ultroneously Robert Crichton and Elizabeth Wilson in Cumnock and acknowledged themselves to have been married in an irregular manner at Glasgow and in proof thereof produced lines of marriage dated the 8th of June last. They were asked if they mutually adhered to their marriage engagements & upon their declaring they did, they were declared married persons, and signed this minute along with the minister. (signed) Thomas Miller, Robert Crichton, Thomas Miller for Elizabeth Wilson.

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They were Sessionally rebuked and ordered to make a public appearance.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Minister.

Cumnock August 2nd 1778

Sederunt after Prayer, present Mr McMyne Moderator pro tempore and Hugh McGeachin & Elders.

Robert Crichton and Elizabeth Wilson were this day rebuked before the congregation for irregular marriage. Elizabeth Wilson was absolved but the said Robert Crichton continues under discipline for former scandals.

Janet Muir compeared ultroneously and upon being interrogated, acknowledged herself with child and being charged to be ingenuous, said that Allan Dunsmore a servant to the Earl of Dumfries was the father of it. Upon which the Session ordered their officer to summon the said Allan Dunsmore to attend the Session next Lord's day to answer to the above accusation.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock August 9th 1778

Sederunt after Prayer, the Moderator and members of Session.

Compeared upon citation Alan Dunsmore above designed, and being confronted with the above Janet Muir and solemnly exhorted to be ingenuous, he denied her charge and solemnly refuses any carnal knowledge of her since the time of his formerly having been under scandal. Janet Muir being interrogated whether she had any presumptions to offer in proof of her charge against said Dunsmore said that he had knowledge of her some time in the month of January last and after that on the road betwixt Dumfries House and Cumnock. She further added that she had intimated the said Allan Dunsmore of her being with child, and repeated the said information several different times. Allan Dunsmore being interrogated as to the above circumstances acknowledges that he was several times in company with her, she having sent for him, but refuses having carnal knowledge with her at any of these times & farther refuses remembering that she had at any time intimated to him that she was with child.

The Session taking the above affair into their consideration unanimously resolved to refer the farther consideration of it till some future opportunity and in the meantie recommend to Janet Muir to think of any other presumptions she may have to offer, and allow her a future opportunity to adduce* the same if she inclined.

Concluded with prayer.

**adduce – present as evidence*

Cumnock December 13th 1778

Sederunt after Prayer. All the members of the Session except John McGeachin.

The Minister reported to the Session that he had ordered the Officer to cite to this dyet Betty Steel, late servant to Alexander Vallence in Glaisnock who had been dilated to him to be with child. The Officer reported that he had executed said summons, she being called and not compearing was again ordered to be cited to compear before the Session this day se'ennight.

Compeared ultroneously Margaret Weir in Silverburn and acknowledged herself to be with child in fornication, and being exhorted to be ingenuous in dilating the father of her child she declared that John Corsby (Crosby) in Garraland Smithy is the father

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of the child and this is the truth, and farther declares that the guilt was committed in his own house in Garraland Smithy about the beginning of June last. OS She was suitably exhorted and the said John Corsby was ordered to be cited to attend the Session next Lords day. She declared that she could not write and duly authorised the Moderator to sign her above declaration. (signed) Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock December 20th 1778

After prayer sederunt, all the members of the Session.

The officer reported that he had summoned again Betty Steel who being called upon did not appear. He was ordered to cite her pro tertio to compear on the 30th instant.

Compeared again Margaret Weir and the Moderator produced an acknowledgement from John Crosbie of the justice of her accusation as follows:

“Garralland Smithy Dec 1778

I acknowledge the guilt with Margaret Weir in the beginning of June last, as witness my hand.

(signed) John Crosbie”

Compeared ultroneously Rebecca Campbell and acknowledged herself to be with child in fornication and on being charged to be ingenuous, declared that Robert Morrison shoemaker in Cumnock and no other is the father of her child. She was suitably exhorted and cited apud acta to attend the Session upon the 30th current when Robert Morrison was ordered to be summoned to appear also.

Tho. Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock December 30th 1778

After prayer sederunt all the members of Session except John McGeachin.

Compeared upon citation Betty Steel mentioned in the former minute, acknowledges herself to be with child and being exhorted to be ingenuous declared that James Templeton, son of the late John Templeton in Tarreoch, and now servant in Corsflat in Muirkirk is the father of her child, and that the guilt was committed in Cumnock at the Fiar in May last & this is the truth in testimony whereof she subscribes this minute along with the Moderator (signed) Betty Steell Tho Miller.

Betty Steel was cited aput acta to appear before the Session on Sunday sennight and the Moderator was authorised to write to Mr Shepherd Minister of Muirkirk to order the said James Templeton to be cited to appear on said day.

Compeared according to citation Robert Morrison and Rebecca Campbell. The said Campbell adhered to her former declaration and Rober Morrison being interrogated as to the truth of the her charge declared the same to be wholly groundless and that her never had carnal knowledge of her. She being interrogated as to the times of their having been in company, declared that they were together in her master John Sloss’s on the night of the Draff race in June last, and again in the shop of William Murray shoe maker in Cumnock, in the night of the Midsummer Fair last, at both times she

farther declared that the said Robert Morrison had carnal knowledge of her. To which charge Morrison answers that he was in company with her at both of these times, but refuses having been guilty at either of them. Campbell

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being asked if she wanted any witnesses to be summoned to confirm the truth of her accusation declined it for the present. The Session refer the farther consideration of this affair till some light may hereafter be thrown upon it. Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock January 3rd 1779

Sederunt all the members of the Session after prayer.

Compeared ultroneously Margaret Maxwell, lately servant to Allan Auld in Nauktirrow acknowledging herself to be with child and accusing Charles Erskine late surgeon in Mackline. Now residing in Edinburgh as the father of her child, from whom she produced an acknowledgement of it. The tenor whereof follows,

“Edinburgh 22nd December 1778

I hereby acknowledge myself to be the father of your child and will abide by the consequences.

Signed Charles Erskine”

She was suitably exhorted and dismissed.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock January 10th 1779

After prayer sederunt the Minister and Elders.

(No entries made under this heading.)

Cumnock April 18th 1779

Sederunt all the members of the Session.

Compeared ultroneously Alexander Lennox and Helen Johnston both residing in Cumnock and acknowledge themselves to have been married persons since the month of October 1777 and produced lines to that purpose, but the said Alexander Lennox having resided in the parish of Auchinleck previous to his present residence in this parish and produced no Testimonial from said parish the Session delayed the further consideration of this affair till he shall bring evidence of his having come an unmarried person to this parish.

The Session have agreed that the Communion of the Lord’s Supper shall be dispensed in this parish on the 16th of May next and that intimation to that purpose be made next Lords day from the pulpit.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock April 25th 1779

Sederunt after prayer all the members of the Session.

Compeared the above persons Alexander Lennox and Helen Johnston. Lennox produced a certificate from Auchinleck of his being an unmarried person when he came into this parish. They were asked if they adhered to one another as man and wife. Upon their solemnly declaring that they did so, they were declared man and wife and dismissed.

Tho miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock October 23rd 1779

After prayer sederunt the Minister and John Gibb & Hugh McGeachin, elders.

Appeared ultroneously Ann Craig, James Kennedy servants in Dumfries House. She being questioned acknowledged herself to be with child and accused James Kennedy as the father of her child and he being questioned as to the truth of her accusation acknowledged the same. They were suitably exhorted and dismissed.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock April 30th 1780

This day John Gibb was chosen to attend the Presbytery for the ensuing half year.

The Moderator was empowered by the Session to lift the dividend of the poors money in the hands of the late James Gibb of Dalblair as it is now to be paid by the trustees appointed to settle his affairs.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock October 22nd 1780

After prayer sederunt the minister and John Gibb and Hugh McGeachin, elders.

Appeared upon citation, Jean McCowan, late servant to William McCowan in Cumnock and acknowledged herself to be with child and being exhorted to ingenuity in her farther confession said that George Wilson calling himself a travelling merchant now residing so far as she knows in Glasgow is the father of her child. This being a relapse into fornication she was suitably exhorted and desired to enquire after said George Wilson that the place of his residence being found out he may be acquainted with her accusation of him.

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller, moderator.

October 23rd 1780

The moderator delivered to the Kirk treasurer Hugh McGeachin the sum of £3" 13" 4" being the dividend of the poors money due by the late James Gibb of Dalblair.

Cumnock November 19th 1780

After prayer sederunt the minister and all the Elders.

Compeared upon citation Elizabeth Campbell and acknowledging herself guilty of theft was in consequence of the unanimous judgement of the Session suitably rebuked and dismissed.

James Rankin was chosen to attend the Presbytery and synod for the current half year. Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock November 26th 1780

Sederunt the minister and all the Elders.

Compeared upon citation Helen Hunter daughter of John Hunter in Auchingibbert and upon being interrogated acknowledged herself with child and when charged to be ingenuous in delating the father of her child declared that it was Thomas Duncan, late in Ochiltree at present in or near Dumfries, that the guilt was committed in the end of May last in Ochiltree. She was exhorted to repentance and dismissed. Tho Miller, minister.

Cumnock 28th January 1781

Sederunt after prayer sederunt all the Elders except Mr White.

Compeared the above Helen Hunter & Thomas Duncan and the said charge being read over to him & being exhorted to tell the truth, he denied the charge brought against him by said Helen Hunter & solemnly declared he never had carnal knowledge of her. The Session, after hearing such presumptions as Helen Hunter had to offer, in the hopes that times would throw some light on this affair, delayed for the present the further consideration of it.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock May 13th 1781

Sederunt the minister and all the Elders after prayer.

Compeared ultroneously Janet Muir who acknowledged that about two months ago she was delivered of a child in fornication and upon being interrogated who was the father of the child she answered that Archibald Fergusson in Cumnock was the father of the child. She was suitably exhorted and cited apud acta to appear before the Session on Thursday se'ennight the 24th current at which time also the Officer was ordered to cite the above Archibald Fergusson to compear and answer to the accusation above laid against him.

Concluded with prayer. Thomas Miller, Minister.

Cumnock May 24th 1781

After prayer Sederunt all the Elders except Mr Johnston.

Compeared upon citation from Sorn Janet Little lately of this parish now residing there and acknowledged that she had brought forth a child in fornication and upon being interrogated who was the father of her child and charged to be ingenuous said that George Jackson formerly residing in Dumfries but now

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she does not know where was the father of her child. The Session declared that they could proceed no farther in it at present but desired the said Janet Little to make every inquiry after the said George Jackson and report the result to the Session. She was suitably exhorted and dismissed.

Compeared upon citation Archibald Fergusson and Janet Muir, the minutes of last sederunt being read and the said Archibald being interrogated whether her accusation of him was just, he declared it false and that he never had carnal knowledge of her. Said Janet Muir being interrogated as to the presumptions she had to offer in support of her charge against said Archibald Fergusson she produced five letters which she said she had received from him which letters being shown to him he acknowledged that one of them was in his handwriting and sent by him to her, but that the other four are not of his handwriting neither does he know anything of them or their contents.

The letters were read over by the Session and at their desire lodged in the Clerk's hands after being numbered 1,2, 3, 4,5 according to the order in which Janet Muir to the best of her recollection says she received them. She farther declares that No2 and No3 were delivered to her by Jean Skirring, wife to George Wood at the Toll bar who told her that Archibald Fergusson had desired her to deliver them to her (viz J Muir). That she also got thro the same conveyance the letter marked No4, that the slip of paper marked No5 was delivered to her wrapped in a piece of grey paper by William Paton in Shankston, that No1 she received when residing in St Quivox above twelve months ago.

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As Archibald Fergusson denies having written or sent any of these letters or slips of paper except No2 Janet Muir in proof of her averments requested the Session to cite the above mentioned Jean Skirring and William Paton in proof of the receipt and delivery of said letters or slips of paper.

The Session accordingly ordered the officer to summon the said persons to attend the Session at their next meeting which is hereby appointed to be held in the schoolhouse on Friday se'ennight the 1st of June at five o'clock afternoon, when the parties present were cited tapud acta to appear also.

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller, Minister.

Cumnock June 1st 1781

After prayers Sederunt all the members of the Session except James Rankine.

Compeared Janet Muir. Archibald Fergusson being called did not compear. The Session considering that as Archibald Fergusson ad been cited apud acta resolved to proceed in examining the witnesses

who were summoned to attend this dyet, viz William Paton and Jean Skirring mentioned in last minute. The officer reported that he had duly cited them, they being now called did not appear. The Session ordered the officer to cite these said witnesses pro secundo to attend the Session Friday next and Janet Muir was cited apud acta to compear also.

Compeared ultroneously Thomas Duncan and Helen Hunter mentioned in the minute of January 28th 1781. Helen Hunter adhered to her former charge against Thomas Duncan and repeated the presumptions formerly mentioned in the hearing of the Session. Thomas Duncan continued to deny the truth of her charge and being desirous to exculpate himself from the scandal he is presently under, required of the Session to administer

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the oath prescribed by the form of process to persons in his situation, in as much as he declared himself at liberty to take said oath. The Session considering his requisition were unanimously of the opinion that the presbytery should be applied to to interpone* their authority for granting his requisition and the Minister was authorised by the Session to apply to the Presbytery at the their first meeting that their leave might be obtained to administer said oath according to the rules of the church.

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller, Minister.

**interpone – to intervene so as to prevent something.*

Cumnock June 3^d 1781

After prayer Sederunt all the Elders.

James Rankine was chosen to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the current half year.

Closed with prayer.

Cumnock June 8th 1781

Post preces* sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

The parties mentioned in last minute to wit Archibald Fergusson & Janet Muir being called, Archibald Fergusson did not compear. Janet Muir compeared. The Officer reported that he had regularly cited Archibald Fergusson and the two witnesses viz William Paton and Jean Skirring compeared.

Compeared the said Jean Skirring spouse to George Wood. The pursuer declined taking her oath and said she would content herself with her declaration. Said Jean Skirring being interrogated declares that a letter was delivered to her by Archibald Fergusson one day as he was passing on horseback. Upon her asking him whom the letter was for he said "They, meaning the person to whom it was addressed, would call for it". Being farther interrogated

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to whom the letter was addressed she declares that it was addressed to Janet Muir. Being farther interrogated if she remembers to have delivered anu other letter from Archibald Fergusson address to Janet Muir declares that Janet Muir got another letter which had been left in the house but by whom she cannot say with any certainty, nor is she her self certain of having herself delivered said letter to Janet Muir. Being farther interrogated at the desire of the pursuer whether or not she remembers having seen A. Fergusson and Janet Muir in her husband's house declares that one day while Janet Muir was sitting in her husband's house Archibald passing by was called in and that they viz A Fergusson and Janet Muir were together for some time but knows nothing of the conversation that passed between them and that this is the truth and all that she knows of this affair. (signed) Jean Skirring – JS – her mark. Tho Miller

**post preces – after prayer.*

Compeared William Paton, late in Shankston now residing in Sorn. The pursuer waved also for the present examining him on oath and would be satisfied with his declaration.

Being interrogated he declares that he remembers having carried a letter from Janet Muir to Archibald Fergusson with orders from Janet Muir to bring back to her his answer to said letter, declares that he delivered said letter to Archibald Fergusson who told him that Janet Muir was an

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Abandoned woman or some such like expression, and that he had no answer to send to it. He farther declares that sometime thereafter the defendant A Fergusson asked him if he would carry a bundle wrapped in grey paper to the Toll House which he accordingly did. Being interrogated what might be the size of the bundle said that it was of very small size wrapped in grey paper, which Janet Muir afterwards showed him, telling him that she had received it wrapped in the grey paper, and he now declared it to be the same slip of paper marked No5. This is the truth and all that he knows of this affair. (signed) William Paton Tho Miller.

The Session having considered the above declarations and deliberated upon this whole affair are unanimously of opinion that Janet Muir's charge against the said Archibald Fergusson is well founded and therefore found and herby adjudge the said A Fergusson to have been guilty of the scandal with which Janet Muir hath charged him.

The parties being called in the above sentence was intimated to them.

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller.

Cumnock November 11th 1781

After prayer Sederunt all the members of the Session.

Compeared Janet Bryden daughter of Alexander Bryden in Cumnock and being interrogated acknowledged her self with child, and solemnly charged Archibald Fergusson in Cumnock as the father of her child. She was cited apud acta to compear before the Session on Wednesday next and he, viz Alexander Fergusson was ordered to be summoned to compear likewise.

Closed with prayer.

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Cumnock November 14th 1781

Post preces* Sederunt all the members of Session.

Compeared according to citation Janet Bryden. Archibald Fergusson being called did not compear. He was appointed to be cited to compear before the Session on Friday next in this place and Janet Bryden was cited apud acta to attend likewise at the same time,

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller, Minister.

**post preces – after prayer.*

Cumnock November 16th 1781

Post preces, Sederunt all the members of the Session except James Rankine.

Compeared upon citation Archibald Fergusson and Janet Bryden. The two preceeding minutes were read and Janet Brydon adhered to her accusation of Archibald Fergusson, who being now present solemnly denied her accusation. Upon which the said J Bryden in presumption of the truth of her accusation declared that she had received from the said A Fergusson in the month of May last marriage lines subscribed by him and her and bearing to be dated at Glasgow. These lines she could not now produce as she had given them last week to A Fergusson who had never returned them.

Archibald Fergusson acknowledges having received such lines last week from Janet Bryden and that he had destroyed them as he considered them to be false and counterfeited, being certain that he never gave her any such lines written or signed by him.

Janet Bryden in confirmation of her assertion of having received such lines from A Fergusson as those above mentioned produced to the Session two papers, the one containing a solemn promise of fulfilling all his vows to her, which paper is dated Cumnock, May 1781 and subscribed Archibald Fergusson. And the other which is without a date containing a request to see her as “he had got an end put to all future disputes between him and her at Glasgow upon Friday the first of May”. Which papers she gave in and now lodged with the Clerk.

The said Archibald Fergusson being shewn the above papers denies them to be his handwriting nor has he ever before seen them.

Janet Bryden declares that she received one of them out of his own hand and the other

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by the hands of Mary Bryden sister to Alexander Bryden.

Archibald Fergusson says on the contrary that he never gave Mary Bryden any such letter to be given to the accuser nor did he ever give her (the accuser) any such paper as that now produced.

The Session having deliberated upon this affair are unanimously of opinion that the above named Mary Bryden should be called and examined before the Session as to the receipt and delivery of the above mentioned letter and accordingly order the Officer to cite the said Mary Bryden to appear

before the Session on Tuesday next the 20th instant at 5 o'clock afternoon, to which dyet the parties now present were cited apud acta to appear.

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock November 18th 1781

Sederunt all the members of Session after prayer.

The Session unanimously reelected James Rankine to attend the Presbytery & Synod for the ensuing half year.

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock November 18th 1781

Sederunt all the members of Session after prayer except James Rankine and Mr Johnston.

Compeared according to citation Janet Bryden, Archibald Fergusson being called did not compear. Mary Bryden who was ordered to attend this meeting compeared, but as the defendant A Fergusson was not present, the pursuer J Bryen declined examining her for the present but she ordered to attend the next meeting of Session to be held her on Friday next. Janet Bryden requested the Session to cause their Officer cite to appear before the said meeting Thomas Nelson shoemaker and Elizabeth Armstrong his wife, John Grahame day labourer and Elspith Johnston spouse to John M, all in Cumnock as their declarations might serve to throw light on her charge against Archibald Fergusson. The Officer was accordingly ordered to summon the above persons, together with the defendant A Fergusson to compear along with them at next meeting and she J Bryden was cited apud acta to compear likewise.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock November 23rd 1781

After prayers Sederunt the Moderator and all the elders except James Rankine.

The parties being called compeared.

Compeared Mary Brydon, widow of Alexander Grahame, late in Cumnock to whom the defendant objected on account of her consanguinity to the pursuer, she being her Aunt. The Session waving for the present his objection agreed to take her declaration and she being interrogated whether she had ever received and carried any letter from the defender to the pursuer declares that in May last she received from him a letter to deliver to Janet Bryden which she accordingly did deliver and which to the best of her recollection is the paper which was produced at a former meeting of Session by Janet Bryden and then averred by her to have been received by her.

Being farther interrogated if she knows of any other paper that passed between the pursuer and defendant she declares that some time before the receipt and delivery of the letter abovementioned. The parties viz A Fergusson and J Bryden, being in her house late at night after she had gone to bed heard him express himself in the following manner "God woman, you are the most disbelieving

woman ever I saw. What are you fear'd for. Tho I were willing to go back, they would not let me," and at the same time saw an open written line given by the defender to the pursuer, father declares that after having questioned the Pursuer about the contents of the said line, she told her that she would inform her of the contents of it id she would not reveal them. Upon her promising to that effect she read over the said written paper. Being farther interrogated if she can recollect any of the contents of the said writing, declares that

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she remembers no more than that it contained something about vows and promises and that he would marry her in May, and that they never should be separated till death did separate them. And that she recollects that she considered it as a promise of marriage from him to her. Being farther interrogated whether she had ever seen any unseemly behaviour between the parties acknowledges that she had on several instances. The Defender being asked if he has any questions to put to the witness declared that for the reason abovementioned he had none.

The witness cannot write. Tho Miller.

Thomas Nelson being called, compeared and being interrogated if ever he had seen the Pursuer and Defender in company together declares that about the beginning of June last to the best of his recollection, they were about two hours in the farther end of the house possessed by him, that he repeatedly desired them to go out as they were observed by the neighbours, that he saw nothing unseemly while he was with them, but what passed when they were by themselves he knows not. He farther declares that on the evening of Tuesday se'ennight in passing from his own house to another part of the town he saw two persons together and overheard one of them reproaching the other with having destroyed the lines and perjured himself. Declares that upon drawing nearer he understood the persons to be A Fergusson and J Bryden and that upon his (the witness's) appearing A Fergusson immediately went off. Being interrogated by the desire of one of the members of the Session whether he was acquainted with the handwriting of the defender declared that he was well acquainted with it, and being shown the two papers given in by Janet Bryden he is free to declare and herby declares that to the best of his judgement both these papers are in his handwriting causa scientiae that he the Defender has written letters and several other things for the witness and this is the truth. Signed Thomas Nelson.

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Compeared Elspith Johnston spouse to John Forgie in Cumnock, who being interrogated declares that she has repeatedly carried letters from the Defendant to the Pursuer, that she knows nothing of the contents of them. She farther declares that she has in several instances, at the desire of the defender gone and brought the pursuer to him, that their place of meeting in these cases was in her husband's house, that she never saw anything unseemly passing between them and that they were in use at times to go to the other end of the house, but knows not what passed there, that the above circumstances happened during last winter or at least previous to Whitsun last when her husband removed from his former to his present house. And this is the truth, signed by the Moderator as she cannot write. Tho Miller.

Compeared Elizabeth Armstrong, spouse to Thomas Nelson a former witness, declares that in April 1780 or about the time where people usually set potatoes the Pursuer J Bryden was sowing in her

the witness's house, that she was called to go out on some business, that she left the charge of her child to the Pursuer, that having staid away about half an hour, she returned but could not immediately get admittance into her house, as the door she found was locked in the inside, that upon her getting admittance she found the Defendant in company with the pursuer. That the defendant had sent her the witness away on the above business that he immediately went out of the house upon her entering it. That she chid the pursuer for having allowed the child to cry during her absence which the neighbours informed her that the child had been doing but could not procure admittance into the house to pacify him. Being farther interrogated declares in totidem verbis* what her husband declared about their being in the farther end of their house about the

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beginning of June last. Farther declared upon being shown the papers above specified that in her best judgement one of them is in the hand writing of A Fergusson, she having had frequent reason to have seen and read his writing. And this is the truth. Signed Betty Armstrong.

**in totidem verbis – word for word/the same*

Compeared John Graham to whom the Defendant objected that he as Cousin german to the pursuer. The Session referring to themselves the future consideration of this objection proceeded to take his declaration. Upon being interrogated declares that he has seen the parties both in the house of Alexander Bryden and of Mary Bryden, that he never saw anything unseemly on these occasions passing between them, that he once carried a letter from the pursuer to the defender but knows nothing of the contents. That last week coming from the townfoot with Thomas Nelson they overheard two persons conversing with each other, that he the witness heard the one say to the othe, "Why did you perjure yourself and deny the lines", to which the other answered "Twas all your mother's wyte"* . Thereafter upon the witness starting forward he discovered the persons to be the pursuer and the defender, who called out to her "There is John Graham", and immediately went off. Farther declares that on the evening of Monday last being desired by the pursuer's mother to go in quest of her, he found her in James Nichol's stable in company with the Defendant, that the door of the closs in which the stable is being secured in the inside. He got admittance by going over the wall, he desired the Pursuer to come home as her mother wanted her. Upon which A Fergusson said she should come immediately, upon which the witness left them but upon her not coming home he again returned to the same place in about a quarter of an hour when he found the

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Parties just coming out of the stable, after which they separated and he knows no more of them and this is the truth. Signed John Graham.

**wite – to blame or attribute guilt*

The Session delayed the farther consideration till Friday 30th current when the parties were cited apud acta to attend.

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller.

Cumnock November 30th 1781

After prayers Sederunt all the members of Session except Mr Johnston.

Compeared according to citation Archibald Fergusson and Janet Bryden and upon being interrogated whether she still continued to accuse Archibald Ferguson, said she did. And he being asked whether he still denied her accusation said he did.

The Defender desired to order Mr McLean surgeon in Cumnock to be summoned at his instance as an exculpatory evidence and James Goldie servant to John Fergusson for the same purpose. The Pursuer desired James Fergusson and William Crichton both in Cumnock to be summoned at her instance to compear as evidence in her cause at their next meeting on Tuesday first the 4th of December. They were cited apud acta to compear at the same time.

Closed with prayer.

Cumnock December 4th 1781

After prayers Sederunt all the members of Session.

Compeared according to citation Archibald Fergusson and Janet Bryden.

Compeared Mr Robert McLean Surgeon in Cumnock called by the defendant and being interrogated whether the pursuer Janet Bryden ever applied to him for drugs to procure an abortion declares that she applied to him for some medicine for a complaint in her breast, which he gave her & that once at her mother's desire he went to see her when not well and this is all that he knows of the affair. (signed) Robt Maclean.

Compeared William Crichton, a witness called by the pursuer. Who being shewn the two papers formerly given to the Session by Janet Bryden was asked whether he thought they were of the

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Defendant's handwriting, declares that to the best of his knowledge they are not as they seem to be written in a better hand than ever he saw Archibald Fergusson write and this is the truth. (signed) Will. Crichton.

James Fergusson and James Goldie being called did not compear.

The Session having read over the proof and taken this affair fully into their consideration are of opinion that the papers given in by Janet Bryden and said by her to have been received from Archibald Fergusson are of his handwriting and taking into consideration the tenor of said papers and farther considering that by A Fergusson's own acknowledgement he had destroyed a certain paper believed by her to (be) marriage lines and which she had received from him as such, and finally taking the whole circumstances of this affair together are unanimously of opinion that Archibald Fergusson is guilty of the scandal whereof he is accused by Janet Bryden.

The above sentence being intimated read to the parties, whereupon Archibald Fergusson appealed from said sentence to the Presbytery of Ayr at their next meeting, took instruments and craved the extracts.

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller.

Cumnock April 17th 1782

This day the Session elected Mr Johnston Elder to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year.

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Cumnock May 5th 1782

Session constitute, Sederunt all the members of the Session.

Appeared ultroneously Janet Black, servant to William Wood in this place and acknowledged herself with child in fornication, upon being exhorted to be ingenuous, accused Alexander McGlashan, servant to the Earl of Dumfries as the father of her child, says that the guilt was committed about four weeks before old Martinmas last & that she had informed him last week of her situation, having never had an opportunity of doing it sooner on account of her bad state of health and this is the truth but declaring she cannot write desires the Moderator to sign her acknowledgement.

Tho Miller

Compeared also ultroneously Ann Weston, servant to Dr Wilson in Cumnock, and acknowledged herself to be with child in fornication, and being charged to be ingenuous accused David Houston son to James Houston in Underwood and lately fellow servant of her own, as the father of her child, farther declared that the said David Houston sometime ago inlisted to be a soldier and is now gone to join his regiment, that before his leaving the country she had informed him of her situation and farther declares that the guilt was committed about New Years day last. This is the truth. (signed) Ann Weston Tho.Miller

The Session delayed the farther consideration of these affairs for a few weeks. They were suitably exhorted and dismissed.

Closed with prayer.

They were summoned apud acta to compear before the Session on the 28th of this month.

Cumnock May 5th 1782

After prayers sederunt all the members of the Session.

Compeared according to citation Ann Weston who informed the Session that she had wrote sometime ago to David Houston the person whom she had accused as the father of her child, but had not as yet received any answer to her letter, but would inform some of the members of the Session as soon as she received the answer. The Session therefore for the present delay the farther consideration of this affair.

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Likewise compeared Janet Black, but as Alexander McGlashan was necessarily detained from attending this meeting of Session, the Session deferred the farther consideration of her accusation till their next meeting which they hereby appoint to be held in this place on Monday next at twelve o'clock before which meeting she was cited apud acta to compear and Alexander McGlashan was ordered to be cited.

Compeared ultroneously Jean Dickie, daughter to John Dickie in Hill, acknowledged herself to be with child in fornication and accused Daniel Calder, late conjunct* tacksman** of Garlaff coal work as the father of her child. That the guilt was committed about the end of November last in the neighbourhood of the village of Cumnock, that she had repeatedly informed the said Daniel Calder of her situation, and has lately again done so, and this is the truth and declares she cannot write but desires the Moderator to sign her declaration. Tho. Miller. Minister.

She was suitably exhorted and dismissed after being cited apud acta to compear before the Session on Monday next. The Officer was ordered to summon said Daniel Calder to compear likewise at same time. Tho Miller

**conjunct – joint*

***tacksman – lease holder*

Cumnock June 3^d 1782

After prayers sederunt all the members of the Session.

Appeared according to citation Janet Black and Alexander McGlashan. She being interrogated adhered to her former accusation which being read to him he so far acknowledged the truth of her accusation as to confess that he had in one instance criminal correspondence with her but as he has good reason to believe she is a woman of bad character, he craves that it may be marked that his above ingenuous acknowledgment militate* against him as being the father of the said Janet Black's child as to the best of his recollection the time of his having carnal knowledge of her was on or about the 25th of October last.

The Session delay the further consideration of this affair till after the woman's delivery in the hopes that the this her delivery will through light upon the affair.

**militate – to carry weight/to tell or indicate*

Compeared according to citation also Jean Dickie and Daniel Calder. She being interrogated whether she adhered to her former accusation said she did. He being interrogated whether her accusation of him was just declared it was not and

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further added that he never had carnal knowledge of her. Upon being further interrogated at the desire of the pursuer whether or not he met her on the road from the coalwork to Cumnock at the time formerly specified in her accusation acknowledges he did. Whether he had not come and spoke to her being brought by her father at her desire to her father's house, acknowledges he did, and acknowledges father that he had come and spoke with her in William Hutchin's byre about ten o'clock at night and being asked why he had come at such an untimeous hour he says that having heard a story going through the country that she had privately accused him as having been guilty

with her, he wished to converse with her upon that subject under a consciousness as he declares, that she falsely accused him.

The accuser Jean Dickie farther declares that the defendant had not only carnal knowledge of her at the time formerly specified but communicated disease to her, under the consequences of which she laboured for several weeks, as she is willing to prove by the testimony of the surgeon that attended her. In answer to all which the defender declares that he never was under disease and is willing to prove particularly that at the time he was a sound man.

The parties were dismissed for the present as the Session judged it proper to delay the farther consideration of this affair to a future period in the hopes that time may throw light on it.

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock August 11th 1782

Post preces, sederunt all the members of the Session except Mr Johnston.

Compeared ultroneously Mary Donald in this village and acknowledged herself with child in fornication, and being charged to be ingenuous in dilating the father of her child, accused William Hoatson in this village also as the father of her child said that the guilt was committed about Candlemas, that she had repeatedly informed him of her situation, and that he

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had not denied the truth of her accusation. This is the truth. Tho Miller.

She was suitably exhorted and dismissed and was cited apud acta to appear before the Session on Sabbath next. The Officer was ordered to cite William Hoatson to compear at the same time.

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock November 3rd 1782

This day Mr James Johnston was reelected to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year.

Closed with prayer. Tho. Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock November 19th 1782

Post preces sederunt all the members of the Session except Mr Johnston.

The officer reported that he had legally summoned for the third time Agnes Forgie to compear before the Session. She was called accordingly but did not appear: upon which the Session ordered him to cite her to compear before the Presbytery upon Wednesday the 27th instant to answer for her contumacy and other charges laid against her.

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock February 25th 1783

Post preces, Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb and Hugh McGeachen elders.

The Officer reported that he had cited to this meeting of Session Agnes Forgie with certification, according to the appointment of Presbytery at their last meeting. She being called did not compear. The Session taking into consideration that this is now the third time that the said Agnes Forgie has either promised or been cited to attend this Session since they received the order of Presbytery anent her, and still remains contumacious are of the opinion that she should be reported to the Presbyter as contumacious and that she should be laid under the sentence of Lesser Ex-communication, and they hereby authorise the minister to transmit an extract of this minute to the Presbytery of Ayr. Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock June 15th 1783

After prayers, sederunt all the members of the Session.

Compeared ultroneously Agnes Forgie, and expressed her sorrow for her long contumacy in withstanding the citations of this Session to appear before them and the Presbytery, declared her willingness now to submit to their appointments and craved liberty to inform the Session who is the father of her child of which she was delivered some time ago.

The Session taking into consideration her former contumacy and that their Moderator had some time ago been empowered by the Presbytery to lay her under the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication which sentence had not yet been executed, are unanimously of opinion that they can do nothing further in this affair without consulting the Presbytery to whom therefore they hereby refer it for advice, and in the meantime think it proper to order the said Agnes Forgie to attend the next meeting of Presbytery to answer to them for her contumacy. Their Moderator did accordingly cite her apud acta to compear before the Presbytery of Ayr on Wednesday the 25 instant.*

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller, Minister.

**Ayr Presbytery minutes record that Agnes appeared as directed, and because she showed penitence, she was sent back to Cumnock to be dealt with the following Sunday.*

Cumnock July 2nd 1783

Sederunt all the members of the Session except James Rankine.

The Moderator reported that Agnes Forgie had attended the Presbytery on Wednesday last according to citation. That the Presbytery after having rebuked her for her contumacy remitted to the Session the farther consideration of the affair. The Officer informed the Session that Agnes Forgie was not at home and they refer the consideration of the affair till her return.

Cumnock July 6th 1783

After prayer, Sederunt all the members of the Session.

Compeared upon citation Agnes Forgie mentioned in the above minute and being solemnly charged to be ingenuous in delating the father of her child declared that Andrew Murray indweller in Cumnock and no other was the father of it, that the guilt was committed in her own house sometime in the month of June 1782 and that she was delivered of the child about the middle of the month of march last, that she frequently acquainted the said Andrew Murray of her being with

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Child, that on such occasions he desired her to conceal his being the father of the child, that at his desire she had withstood the citations of the Session formerly and farther declares that her motive in now letting the matter be known is her consciousness of her guilt in concealing it so long and this is the truth, declares she cannot write. Tho Miller.

She was cited apud acta to appear before the Session on Thursday next the 10th current in the school house at six o'clock in the evening and the officer was ordered to cite the above Andrew Murray to appear at the said meeting of the Session to answer to the above charge. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock July 10th 1783

After prayers, Sederunt all the members of the Session.

Compeared according to citation Agnes Forgie and adheres to her former declaration. Andrew Murray being called did not compear but the Minister reported to the Session that he had received a letter from him requesting a private meeting and declaring at present to wait upon the Session. The said letter was read and ordered to be kept in relentis and the Session ordered the said Andrew Murray to compear before them on Tuesday next to which meeting Agnes Forgie was cited apud acta to attend likewise.

Closed with prayer. Tho. Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock July 15th 1783

After prayers sederunt the Minister and all the Elders except James Rankine.

Compeared according to citation Agnes Forgie. Andrew Murray being called did not compear. The Session ordered him to be cited with certification for the third time to compear before the Session on Wednesday the 23rd current, at which meeting Agnes Forgie was cited apud acta to compear also.

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock 23rd July 1783

After prayer Sederunt all the members of the Session except James Rankine.

Compeared Agnes Forgie according to citation. Andrew Murray being called did not compear. The Session taking into consideration that he has been three times cited with certification and never yet appeared before them ordered him to be cited to appear before the Presbytery of Ayr at their next meeting on the last Wednesday of next month there to answer for his contumacy. In the meantime delay the farther consideration of this affair.

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

**There is no mention of Andrew Murray in the Presbytery records for August/September 1783.*

Cumnock 14th March 1784.

Sederunt after prayer the whole members of Session, except Mr White.

Compeared ultroneously Isobel Osborne in Ward an unmarried person and acknowledged herself to be with child in fornication and accused William Baird younger in Humeston as the father of said child. He being also present acknowledged the truth of her charge.

Signed William Baird, Thomas Miller for Isobel Osborne.

They were suitably exhorted agreeable with their confession.

Cumnock April 5th 1784.

After prayer Sederunt all the members of Session except James Rankine.

Compeared ultroneously William Wilson in Townhead of Douglas and Elizabeth Wilson in Cumnock and acknowledged themselves to have been irregularly married at Dumfries on the 15th July last as appeared from their lines of marriage which they produced and produced an attestation of their having been fined by a quorum of Justices of the Peace for this county. They were asked if they mutually adhered to their marriage engagements and upon their declaring they did they were declared married persons and signed the minute along with the minister. Signed William Wilson, Betty Wilson, Thomas Miller.

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Cumnock July 18th 1784.

Session met and constitute.

The Moderator informed the Session that he understood James Bruce at Auchinleck was ready to pay up that dividend of William Rankine of Boghead's subject which was due to the poor of this parish. Upon which the Session authorized him to receive said money and to give a discharge for it in their name.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock November 7th 1784.

Session met and constitute.

Compeared upon citation (blank space, but subsequently shown as Betty) Johnston and acknowledged that she had born a child in fornication and delated James Young in New Cumnock as the father of it. The Session ordered him to be cited before them the next Lord's day. Thomas Miller, Moderator

Cumnock November 14th 1784.

Session met and constitute.

Compeared upon citation Janet Hair in Clattyhouse who had at a former meeting acknowledged herself to be with child and delated William Miller in Whitehill as the father of her child. The Officer reported that he had duly cited him to attend this meeting of Session. But being called did not compear. The Session supposing his absence to be owing to the badness of the day order him to be cited pro secundo to compear before them next Lord's Day to which meeting Janet Hair was ordered apud acta to compear also.

Closed with prayer.

Hugh McGeachen was this day chosen Elder to attend

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the Presbytery and Synod for the current half year. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock November 21st 1784.

Session met and constitute.

Compeared according to citation William Miller and Janet Hair. She being asked whether she adhered to her former accusation of William Miller as the father of her child, declared she did. The Moderator solemnly charged said William Miller to be ingenuous previous to his making any acknowledgement. Janet Hair being asked when the guilt was committed said about the end of April or the beginning of May last and that she so soon as she perceived her being with child told him of her situation. He being questioned, he refused the accusation but craved leave, upon being spoke privately to by one of the elders to have the matter delayed for a week or two during which time he would take the accusation under his consideration to which the Session agreed and the parties were dismissed.

Betty Johnston mentioned in a former minute being called compeared and added to her former declaration that the guilt had been committed on the Wednesday after Martinmas last old stile*. The Minister reported that he had wrote to the Minister of New Cumnock to cite James Young the person

accused before this Session by the said Betty Johnston. He did not appear but there was produced by the minister his acknowledgement the tenor whereof follows.

“New Cumnock Nov 16th 1784

Being the Minister’s son here and being accused before the Kirk Session of Cumnock at the instance of Betty Johnston unmarried as the father of her child and being seriously dealt with by my father to acknowledge the truth and warned of the danger of perjury, I by these lines make a plain confession that I was guilty of fornication with her three weeks after the term of Martinmas last and am sorry for it tho there still hangs on my mind a doubt if I am the genuine father of her child. And sign my name to this confession. (signed) James Young.”

**old style, or old stile – referring to an old fashioned dating system, the Julian calendar, from pre-1752 where the year started on 25th March.*

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Cumnock February 13th 1785.

After prayer Sederunt all the members of the Session.

Compeared according to citation William Miller and Janet Hair. She being interrogated adhered to her former accusation, and he being interrogated acknowledged guilt with her, but craved it to be marked that as the child was born upon the (blank space) day of December last*, which not answering to the time mentioned in her accusation of him he hopes that the circumstance of his acknowledgement of guilt will not infer that he is the father of the child. The Session allowed the above to be marked but gave no deliverance** as they only enquire into the scandal. They were suitably exhorted and dismissed. Tho Miller, Moderator

**The date was left blank in this minute, but the baptism record for baby Margaret Miller shows that she was born on the 25th December 1785, eight months after her mother believed that she had been conceived. William Miller was named as Margaret’s father and she was given his surname, with no note that he refuted paternity or made any objection.*

***deliverance – a judicial decision. It appears hear that the Kirk has declined to make a decision on the paternity of the baby, claiming that their interest was purely in the scandal – ie. the fact that there had been a sinful sexual relationship by an unmarried couple.*

Cumnock February 28th 1785.

Session met and constitute.

Compeared Mary Hunter and acknowledged herself to be with child in fornication and upon being charged to be ingenuous in dilating the father of her child said that Colin McDougal, merchant in Cumnock, was its father. She was suitably exhorted and cited apud acta to compear before the Session om March 8. At which meeting said Colin McDougal was ordered to be cited also. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock March 8th 1785.

Session met and constitute.

Compeared the above Mary Hunter and Colin McDougal. She being interrogated adhered to her former accusation of him and that to the best of her recollection the guilt was committed in his own house about the end of April old stile last year. He being also interrogated ingenuously acknowledged guilt with her but craved it to be marked that to the best of his recollection the time when he was

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guilty with her was considerably before the time she mentions and farther that she never informed him of her being with child which she herself acknowledges, adding at the same time that she had repeatedly come home on purpose but found it inconvenient and she likewise craved it to be marked that besides the time she mentions, he had formerly had criminal intercourse with her, which she solemnly appeals to his own conscience for the truth of. The Session considering themselves as merely bound to enquire into the scandal decline entering into any of these disputes and dismiss them with suitable exhortations. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 19th March 1785.

Sederunt after prayer the Minister, John Gibb & Hugh McGeachin, Elders.

Compeared Archibald White, schoolmaster here, & Helen Johnston daughter of James Johnston, Merchant here, & being interrogated whither they were married persons, acknowledged that that they had been married in a private & irregular manner at Air in the month of July last – expressed their sorrow for their irregular conduct & now solemnly declared their resolution of adhering to their said marriage in testimony of which they signed this minute along with the Moderator. (signed) Tho Miller, Arch. White, Helen Johnston.

They were Sessionally rebuked, enjoined to pay the fine of a guinea to the poor & dismissed.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller.

Cumnock April 24th 1785.

Session met and constitute.

Hugh McGeachin was chosen member to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year.

Closed with prayer.

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Cumnock May 30th 1785.

Session met and constitute.

Compeared ultroneously Janet Black and acknowledged that she had brought forth a child in fornication about the 10 of February last and declared that John Murray, son of Andrew Murray in Cumnock was the father of her child. John Murray not attending this meeting according to his promise. The Session order their officer to cite him to attend their next meeting to be held in the

schoolhouse on Wednesday next 5th of June to which meeting she was cited apud acta to attend also.

Closed with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock June 5th 1785.

After prayers Sederunt all the members of Session.

As the Session was prevented from meeting on Wednesday last, they met this day to take under their consideration the affair mentioned in the above minute. Compeared Janet Black and adhered to her former declaration. The Session being informed that John Murray had for the present left this country altho he was regularly cited to attend the former and this meeting found themselves obliged to delay the farther consideration of this affair for the present, mean time recommended it to Janet Black who had named several person as witnesses in support of her charge, to procure from them by letter what information could be given by said persons tending to throw light upon the affair, that Session may thereby be furnished with proper means of information when they shall think it proper to take the affair under their cognizance. Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock Nov 6th 1785.

After prayers Sederunt all the members of Session.

Compeared ultroneously Jean Stillie, servant to Charles Crichton in Cumnock and acknowledged herself to be with child and being seriously exhorted to be ingenuous in delating the father of her child declared that Charles Crichton junior her late Masters son is the father of the child, that the guilt was committed about the end of May last in the house of her Master and this is the truth and as she cannot write authorises the Moderator to sign this her declaration. Tho Miller

She was suitably exhorted and cited apud acta to appear before a meeting of Session to be held tomorrow to which meeting the Officer was ordered to cite Charles Crichton to attend likewise.

Cumnock November 7th 1785.

After prayers Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders except James Johnston.

The Officer reported that he had cited Charles Crichton to this meeting. The said Charles Crichton and Jean Stillie being called did not appear. The Officer was ordered to cite both of them to appear before the Session on Sabbath next. Tho Miller, Minister

Eodem die John Gibb was unanimously chosen Elder to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the current half year.

Cumnock December 15th 1785.

After prayers Sederunt all the members of Session.

Compeared James Stevenson and Elizabeth White, daughter of John White baker in Cumnock and acknowledged themselves to have been irregularly married in the end of December last and at the same time they produced a certificate

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of their having been fined by one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace. They were asked if they mutually adhered to their marriage engagements and upon declaring they did they were declared married persons and ordered to sign this minute along with the Moderator. (signed) James Stevenson, Betty White, Tho Miller.

Cumnock May 7th 1786

Session met and constitute.

This day John Gibb was unanimously re-elected to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year.

Closed with prayer.

Cumnock 3^d November 1786

Session met and constitute. Sederunt Moderator and Elders.

John Gibb was unanimously re-elected to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year.

Cumnock 21st January 1787

The Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator & Elders.

The Session elected William Cloqhlon* lately chosen to be schoolmaster in this place to be Session Clerk and the oath de fideli was administered to him.

Compeared John Douglas and Agnes Hoat and acknowledged themselves to have been irregularly married in the 13th Nov last and at the same time they had a certificate of their having been fined by one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace which was attested by a member of the Session who wrote said certificate. They were asked if they mutually adhered to their marriage arrangements and upon declaring they did they were declared married persons and ordered to sign this minute along with the Moderator. (signed) John Douglas, Agnes Houat, Tho Miller.

**Cloqhlon – possibly Clachlan?, I can't find any other mention of this schoolmaster in the Sessions.*

Cumnock 18th March 1787

The Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator & Elders.

Jean Dickie being summoned compeared and confessed that she was with child and accused Andrew McQuhartar in Tarbolton as the father of her child, that the guilt was committed in her father's house at the Hill about the latter end of September or beginning of October last, being farther interrogate if she had informed the said Andrew McQuharter of her being with child declared that she had and that he declared he was willing to free himself of the charge by his oath before a Justice of the Peace. The Session authorise the Moderator to write to the Minister of Tarbolton to cause cite the said Andrew McQuhartar to attend this Session next Sabbath day and the woman was summoned apud acta to attend said meeting. Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock 6th May 1787

Session met and constitute.

This day the Session unanimously made choice of James Johnston to attend the Prebytery and Synod this current half year.

Cumnock 17th June 1787

After prayer compeared according to citation Janet Hare in Skares of Auchenway and acknowledged that she was with child and being solemnly interrogate who was the father of her child accused William Miller son of John Miller in Burnside and that the guilt was committed in about her brother's house and also in his the accused's own house rather before Candlemass last Old Style. She further declares that she cannot write and desired the Moderator to sign for her. Tho Miller.

The Session order the Officer to cite the above William Miller before the Session upon Sabbath next and the woman was summoned apud acta to attend. Tho Miller.

Cumnock 24th June 1787

Session met and constitute. Sederunt Moderator and all the Elders.

Compeared according to citation Janet Hare. The Officer reported that he had cited William Miller agreeable to the appointment of Session, the said William Miller being called did not compear. The officer was ordered to cite him again to attend the Session upon Sabbath the eighth of July and the woman was summoned apud acta to compear upon the same day. Tho Miller.

Cumnock 8th July 1787

Session met and constitute.

The Officer reported that he had duly cited William Miler mentioned in the preceding minute. The parties William Miller & Janet Hare being called did not compear. The officer was ordered to cite him pro tertio and the said Janet Hare to compear before the Session next Lord's day. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 9th August 1787

Appeared ultraneously Janet Hare mentioned in the preceeding minute. William Miller not being present the Session order their Officer to cite with certification to their next meeting on Sabbath 16th current and Janet Hare was cited apud acta then to appear. Tho. Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 16th August 1787

Sederunt John Gibb & James Rankin with the Moderator.

Appeared according to citation the abovementioned Janet Hare. The Officer reported that he had duly summoned William Miller to attend this diet he being called did not appear. The Session taking into their consideration that the said William Miller has been several times regularly cited and never appeared are of opinion that he should be ordered to attend the Presby at Air to answer for his contumacy accordingly the officer was ordered to cite the said William Miller to appear before the Presby of Ayr upon Wednesday the 19th current to answer for his contumacy. Thomas Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock 16th December 1787

After prayer Sederunt the Moderator and Elders.

Appeared ultraneously Janet Hoat in Bent and acknowledged that she had brought forth a child in fornication upon the 26th day of November last and being interrogated declared that James Paterson in Dalmelington and carrier from thence to Edinburgh is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed in the end of February last in the fields between the Sheild and New Cumnock. That she gave him due information of her being with child a good while before her delivery. She also declares that she cannot write and desired the Moderator to sign for her. Tho Miller.

She was suitably exhorted by the Moderator and dismissed and the Moderator was desired to write the Session of Dalmelington to cause cite the above James Paterson to attend this Session this day fortnight. The said Janet Hoat was cited apud acta to attend said meeting of Session. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 20th April 1788

Session met and constitute. Sederunt Moderator and all the Elders.

This day James Rankin was chosen to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the current half year.

Closed with prayer.

Cumnock 20th May 1788

After prayer Sederunt Moderator and Elders.

Compeared ultroneously John Graham and Janet Innes and acknowledged themselves to be married persons & being interrogate when and where they were married declared that they were married upon the 6th day of Dec 1786 in an irregular manner, being now called upon to declare whether they adhered to their said marriage they solemnly consented to do so in witness whereof they signed this minute along with the Moderator. The woman authorising the Moderator to sign for her as she is not able to write. (signed) John Gram, Thomas Miller for Janet Innes.

The Session taking this affair into their consideration order the parties to be Sessionally rebuked and to pay the church dues and six shillings and eight pence of a fine. They were called in and rebuked accordingly and agreed to pay the fine. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock June 3rd 1788

The Session being met and constituted. Sederunt Moderator & Elders.

The session elected William Simson lately chosen to be schoolmaster in this place to be Session Clerk; and the Oath de fideli was accordingly administered to him.

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Cumnock 17th August 1788

After prayer, sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders.

Appear ultroneously Mary Hunter daughter of the late Adam Hunter day labourer in this village and acknowledged herself with child and accused Hugh McKerrow day labourer in Cumnock as father of her child. Being interrogated when the guilt was committed she answered in the latter end of April last in John Gamels park. She declares she cannot write and therefore authorises the Moderator to subscribe this her declaration. Tho Miller.

This being a relapse for her she was suitably exhorted and cited apud acta to appear before this Session in the school house upon Thursday first at six o'clock in the afternoon at which meeting of Session the officer is by the Session ordered to cite the said Hugh McKerrow to compear.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 21st August 1788

After prayer, sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders.

The Officer duly cited Hugh McKerrow to attend this meeting. Compeared Mary Hunter. Hugh McKerrow being called did not compear but there was given into the Session a paper signed by him ther tenor of which follows.

“Cumnock August 18th 1788

I am informed by your Officer that Mary Hunter hath appeared before your Session yesterday and charged me to have had carnal dealings with her about the latter end of April last which charge I acknowledge to be just, but being inconvenient for me to attend your Session on Thursday first I

hope you will excuse me as I am obliged to be at Hamilton for that day if I be well. Signed Hugh McKerrow.”

The above acknowledgement was intimated to Mary Hunter.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock November 13th 1788

Session met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders.

Appeared William Hair ultroneously and acknowledged himself guilty of antenuptial fornication with Anne Wham. He was sessionally rebuked and ordered to make his appearance publicly next Lord's Day in order to be absolved from the scandal. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock November 23rd 1788

Session met and constitute.

This day James Rankin one of the members was unanimously elected to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the current half year.

Cumnock February 29th 1789

Session met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders.

Compeared ultroneously Jean Dick in Burnside of Glaisnock and acknowledged herself with child. Being interrogated who is the father of her child she earnestly craved the Session not to insist upon an answer at present promising in the course of two or three weeks to wait upon them in person if able, or if not able that she shall certify it by a letter. The Session granted the said request. Being interrogated as to what time the guilt was committed she says that as far as she can now recollect it was about the beginning of the month of August last. Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock April 1st 1789

This day Session constitute. Sederunt the Rev Dr Miller and all the Elders.

Compeared ultroneously Christian McCrone presently servant to John Gemmel Innkeeper in the village, acknowledged herself with child and declared that William McHallam also servant at present with said John Gemmel is the father of her child and that the guilt was committed about Martinmas last & that she has repeatedly informed him of this her situation. She was suitably exhorted, and cited apud acta to wait on the Session on the afternoon of next Lords Day against which meeting the Officer is ordered to cite the said William McHallam. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock April 5th 1789

This Christian McCrone and William McHallum did not compear in consequence of the said William McHallam not having been cited, as ordered at last Sederunt, to attend this meeting of Sessiom. The Session now order their officer to cite them both to compear before them on Sabbath next immediately after the Dismission of the congregation at night.

Cumnock April 12th 1789

This day Session met and constitute. Sederunt the Rev Dr Miller, Moderator and all the Elders.

Compeared Christian McCrone and adhered to her former declaration. The officer reported that he had duly cited William McHallam who being called compeared not..

One of the members of Session produced a declaration the tenor whereof follows (which he received yesterday from the hands of said William McHallam.)

“Cumnock 11th April 1789

Sir, This comes to let you know that I own guilt with this woman and Martinmass is the time that I give up. No more at present. Signed by William McHallam”.

The Session having considered the above declaration as an evidence of his guilt, and therefore ordered the said Christian McCrone to make her first publick appearance in order to be rebuked next Lord’s Day. Tho Miller, Moderator.

(No date) 1789

This day Session met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders.

Compeared ultroneously Hugh McKerrow and William McHallam acknowledged each the guilt with which they are in former minutes severally accused. The former with fornication with Mary Hunter and the latter with the same offence with Christian McCrone as expressed in his letter to this session dated April 11th last. They were seriously exhorted and ordered both to appear in the after part of this day.

Same day John Gibb is unanimously chosen Elder to attend Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock October 25th 1789

This day Session constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb and James Rankin Elders.

Compeared in consequence of citation Mary Mitchell, daughter of James Mitchel in this village acknowledging that she lately brought forth a child in fornication and having been seriously exhorted, declared that Patrick Crighton, son of William Crichton, Baron Officer* here is the father of said child. She declares she cannot write and authorises the Moderator to write for her. Tho Miller, Moderator.

She is cited apud acta to compear again before this Session

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next Sabbath and the Officer is ordered to cite the said Patrick Crichton to compear before them also at the same time, next Sabbath in order that they may be confronted.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

**Baron Officer – an estate official/manager*

Cumnock November 20th 1789

After prayer Sederunt all the members of Session.

John Gibb one of our Elders is unanimously elected elder to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the current half year.

The same day compeared in consequence of citation Agnes Moody at the New Houses near Symington in this parish acknowledged herself with child, and being exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration declared that James Findlay one of the gardeners at Dumfries House last half year is the father of her child., that the guilt was committed about the beginning of June last, and that she informed the said James Findlay of this her situation some weeks prior to his departure. She further declared that the said James Findlay soon after being informed left the country but acknowledged before sundry persons his having been guilty with her and requested the Session that these following persons viz George Macairvail in Grumgrow, John Murray & Dougal Dow at Dumfries be cited before this Session to declare what they heard acknowledged by the said James Findly. The Session granted the said request and order their officer to cite the said persons upon (blank space) to declare what they know as to said affair, to which day the Session delay the farther consideration of this affair. Agnes Moody was in the meantime suitably exhorted and cited apud acta to attend said meeting of Session.

The session now take up the affair betwixt Mary Mitchell & Patrick, which was further to delayed by reason of his absence.

Compeared in consequence of citation Mary Michell & Patrick Crichton. The said Mary Mitchell still adheres to her former declaration by saying that Patrick Crichton is the father of her child which she lately brought forth in fornication and that the guilt was committed about the first of January last old style in his father's barn at one time and another time in her father's house.

The said Patrick Crichton being exhorted to be ingenuous denied all guilt with the accusant and declared her accusation to be wholly without foundation.

The Session delay the farther consideration of this affair till in the course of providence more light be thrown upon it. Tho. Miller. Moderator.

Cumnock January 31st 1790

Session constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members of Session.

Compeared in consequence of citation Janet Walker in this village acknowledged herself with child and declared that Allan Bog, weaver in the village is the father of her child. She is cited apud acta to

compear again before this session on next Lord's Da against which meeting of Session the said Allan Bog is ordered to be cited to appear. Tho. Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock February 7th 1790

Session constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members of Session.

The compeared Janet Walker and Allan Bog mentioned in last minute. Janet Walker being asked if she still adheres to her former declaration declares that she still adheres to it, adding that the guilt was committed in her own house in the latter end of August last.

Allan Bog after serious exhortation being asked what he has to say as to this charge now declares that he is entirely innocent as to this affair having had no criminal

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communications with her. The Session adjurn for the present the farther consideration of this affai till they see whither in the course of providence more light may be thrown upon it. Tho. Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock February 28th 1790

The Session constitute this day. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

Compeared again Janet Walker and Allan Bog. She adhering to her former accusation, and he to his former denial. She in corroboration of her accusation mentioned that the said Allan Bog applied to Hugh Marr in this village in the latter end of Harvest last for a medicine to procure abortion and the said presumption mentioned by her being enforced strongly on Allan Bog. He refused the same and averr'd that he does not recollect ever having spoken to Hugh Marr upon that subject but being further questioned acknowledged his having spoke to Hugh Marr interrogating him if there was such things; that is medicines for procuring abortion but that in such conversations with Hugh Marr he never referr'd or meant to refer to the care of Janet Walker or that of any other person in her situation and farther adds that he never got from Hugh Marr nor from any other person any medicines of that kind so far as known to himself.

Janet Walker being again interrogated declares that the said Allan Bog at the time when she was about seven weeks gone with child repeatedly brought her medicines for procuring abortion which he said he bought from Hugh Marr and which she acknowledges to have made use of for that purpose in the presence of the said Allan Bog. All which the said Allan Bog upon being interrogated declares himself ignorant of; averring that he never brought her any such medicines nor ever witnessed her taking them or desired her to do so.

The Session adjourn for the present the farther consideration of it till they see whether in the course of providence more light may be thrown upon it.

Cumnock March 28th 1790

Session constitute. Sederunt all the members of Session.

Compeared utroneously Barbara Lammie, daughter of George Lammie in Woodend acknowledging herself with child, and declaring that William McKinlay in Netherthird is the father of her child. She is cited apud acta to compear before this Session next Lord's Day against which meeting the said William McKinlay is to be cited to compear. She declares she cannot write and desires the Moderator to sign this her declaration & adds that the guilt was committed at the end of August last. Tho Miller.

Cumnock April 25th 1790

This day Session constitute. Sederunt all the members of Session.

Barbara Lammie compeared this day in consequence of citation. The officer reported that William McKindlay was duly cited but he being called did not compear. John Gibb one of the members of Session produced a letter directed to him which is signed by the said William McKindlay, the tenor of which follows.

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“Brickfield April 20th 1790

Sir, You will be so good as show this to the Session for I own that child is mine that Barabara Lammie has given me. Signed William McKinlay”

The Session order their officer to cite the said William McKinlay before them against this day se'enight.

Cumnock June 6th 1790

Session constitute. Sederunt all the members.

John Gibb one of the members was unanimously continued (by re-election) Elder to attend the Presby & Synod for the ensuing half year.

Cumnock June 20th 1790

Session constitute. Sederunt all the members of Session.

Compeared John Hamilton, late of this parish now residing in Broom of Auchinleck parish acknowledged himself to have been guilty of a fraud, for which he long ago made every reparation which justice required of him; and from the scandal of which he now craved to be absolved by the Session.

The Session taking said affair into their consideration ordered him to be now Sessionally rebuked, which was done accordingly. Tho. Miller.

Cumnock September 26th 1790

This day Session constitute. Sederunt all the members thereof.

Appeared ultroneously Hugh Mitchell & Marion Gibb. She being questioned acknowledged herself with child and accused the said Hugh Mitchell as he father of her child, and the said Hugh Mitchell acknowledged the truth of her said accusation by declaring that he is the father of her child. They were both suitable admonished by the Moderator. Tho Miller.

Cumnock December 19th 1790

Session constitute. Sederunt all the members of Session.

Compeared in consequence of citation, Elizabeth Girvan, acknowledged herself with child in fornication, and after having been seriously exhorted, declared that Robert Stuthard in this village is the father of her child, that she informed him of her situation, and was persuaded that if now called upon he will readily acknowledge the charge. She is cited apud acta to compear before Session next Lords Day against which meeting the officer is order to cite said Robert Stuthart in order that they may be confronted. Tho Miller.

Cumnock December 26th 1790

Session constitute. Sederunt all the members thereof.

There was produced a letter directed to the Session from Robert Stuthart mentioned in last minutes the tenor of which followeth.

“Decem 25th 1790.

Gentleman, As I am inform'd by your officer that Betty Girvan hath been called before as being reported to be with child and that she hath acknowledged the charge and given me for the father of said child which charge I own to be just. I am your humble servant, signed Robert Stodart”

Betty Girvan though called did not appear. The Session from the above acknowledgement

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find that Robert Stodhart is father of the child by which Betty Girvan has charged him. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock April 19th 1791

This day Session constitute. Sederunt the Revd Moderator and all the members.

Compeared ultroneously Elizabeth Crawford in the village, late servant in Logan, acknowledged herself with child, declared that Mr William Logan. Son of the late Mr Logan of Camlarg (now in Ayr)

is the father of her child and that she had informed him of her situation, that this is the truth attested by (signed) Betty Crawford

She was suitably exhorted upon her own confession and the Moderator was appointed to intimate her accusation to the said Mr William Logan and to report to the Session.

Cumnock June 19th 1791

Session constitute. Sederunt and all the elders.

Compeared Adam Brown weaver in this village and Anne Wiper, acknowledged themselves to have been irregularly married in Glasgow upon the 25th June last now declared before the Session their adherence to each other as man & wife. They expressed their sorrow for their offence given by their irregular conduct &, having been suitably reprovved for the same, by the Moderator, were dismissed.

She declares she cannot write and therefore requests the Clerk to sign for her.

(Signed) Adam Brown, Anne Wiper, Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock August 5th 1791

This day Session constitute. Sederunt the Revd Moderator and all the elders present.

Appeared ultroneously John Murray mentioned in the minutes of Session dated May 30th 1785, formerly belonging to this parish, now residing in Monkriden (Monkredding) in the parish of Kilwinning.

The accusation Janet Black mentioned in the above minute being read over to him he acknowledged having had carnal knowledge of her but solemnly declared that he was not the father of her child, nor could take with the truth of the accusation. The Session taking this affair into consideration and being informed by John Murray that the Minister and Kirk Session of Kirkoswald where he for some time resided have no objection to his undergoing discipline there remitt this affair to the consideration of said Kirk Session of Kirkoswald not doubting that they will take them upon discipline and absolve him from forsaid scandal according to the rules of the church and request that said kirk session will inform this Session by letter of their having done so. He was suitably exhorted and a copy of this minute was ordered to be given him to be laid before the Session of Kirkoswald. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock November 20th 1791

Session constitute. Sederunt all the members.

John Gibb one of the members of Session was unanimously re-elected Elder to attend Presbytery & Synod for the ensuing half year.

Cumnock December 4th 1791

Session constitute. Sederunt all the members.

Compeared in consequence of citation Agnes Wilson, relict of the deceased John Semple late mason in Cumnock, acknowledged herself with child, & having been seriously exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration, declared that Alexander Malcom an Irishman lately working at the woods near this village is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed in her own house and that she could not inform him of this her being with child at the time he left this place in consequence of her not knowing her situation at that time and this is the truth. Tho Miller

She was suitably exhorted and ordered to get notice where the said Alexander Malcom now resides that her accusation may be put to him in order that the Session may be able to determine whether her accusation be just or not. Tho Miller.

Cumnock February 12th 1792

Session constitute. Sederunt all the members of Session.

Compeared in consequence of citation Helen Ross at present servant with Mr Johnston in this village acknowledged herself with child, and having been exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration declared that William Johnston son of the said Mr Johnston lately gone to the West Indies is the father of her child, that guilt was committed about four months and a half ago and that she informed him of her situation before he left the country. Tho Miller

The Session authorise the Moderator to write at first opportunity to the said William Johnston informing him of this accusation.

Cumnock March 25th 1792

Session constitute. Sederunt all the members.

Compeared ultroneously William Miller in Garleffan an unmarried person and acknowledged his having been guilty of fornication with Sibyl Baird, daughter of John Baird in Watson of Boreland, which Sibyl Baird this Session hath been lately inform'd is several months gone with child and from her being in this situation was so far incapable of attending this meeting of Session.
(signed) William Miller

Cumnock March 13th 1792

Session constitute. Sederunt all the members thereof.

John Gibb one of the members of Session was unanimously re-elected Elder to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year. Tho Miller.

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Cumnock June 29th 1792

Session constitute. Sederunt all the members.

Compeared ultroneously John Campbell, merchant in Cumnock, and Sarah Turnbull acknowledged themselves to have been irregularly married in Glasgow in the month of September last and now declared before the Session their adherence to each other as man and wife. They expressed their sorrow for their offence given by their irregular conduct and having been suitably exhorted by the Moderator were dismissed. (Signed) John Campbell, Sarah Turnbull, Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock June 29th 1792

Session constitute. Sederunt all the members.

Compeared ultroneously Margaret Miller, an unmarried person, daughter of John Miller, shoemaker in Whitesmuir acknowledged that she lately brought forth a child on the 10th day of March last & having been seriously exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration declared that Simon Miller a writer's clerk in Edinburgh is the father of her child and that the guilt was committed in Edinburgh in the month of June seventeen hundred and ninety one. Being asked if she informed him of her situation she said that she did not having had no opportunity of seeing him since that time and being unwilling to employ any person to write. This she declares is the whole truth. (signed) Margaret Miller.

The Session authorise the Minister to transmitt an extract of the above accusation to Edinburgh in order that there may be procured farther light & information to the subject matter of it.

Cumnock September 2nd 1792

Session constitute, all the members present.

Compeared ultroneously Anne McMillan formerly resident with John Johnston in Little Auchingilsie now in the village of Cumnock, acknowledged herself with child and declared that George Johnston son of the said John Johnston is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed in Little Auchingilsie about Candlemass last & that she formerly informed him of this her situation.

She delares she cannot write and therefore authorized the Moderator to sign the above. Tho Miller.

She was suitably exhorted by the Moderator and summoned apud acta to compear before next meeting of Session on Sabbath the ninth current to which meeting the Officer is ordered to cite the said accused George Johnston to appear.

Cumnock September 23rd 1792

Session constitute, Sederunt all the members.

Ann McMillan and George Johnston were called upon by the officer for the third time in consequence of which she appeared but the said George Johnston did not compear but there was presented to the Session a letter directed to the Moderator signed by George Johnston

the tenor of which follows

“Cumnock Sept 22nd 1792

Sir, this is to acquaint you that I acknowledge guilt with Anne McMillan is attested by me. Signed
George Johnston

The session taking said letter into consideration hold it to be acknowledgement of the charge brought against said George Johnston by Anne McMillan and it was notified accordingly to her. The session ordered the letter to be kept in relentis. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock the 6th of January 1793

Session constitute, Sederunt all the members.

Compeared ultroneously Margaret Gemmel, daughter of William Gemmell taylor in Cumnock acknowledged herself with child and having been previously exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration, declared that Samuel McVey a journeyman taylor who was sometime working with her father during last summer is the father of her child. That he was from the County of Down in Ireland and, so far as is known to her, an unmarried man. That her father saw him a few days ago in Ayr and questioned him as to the truth of her charge against him, that he neither confessed nor denied but promised that he would see her some time hence and give an answer to her charge. This is the truth which she authorises the Moderator to subscribe for her. Tho Miller.

The session defer the farther consideration of this affair till they see what light the accused's answer may throw on this affair. She was seriously exhorted and dismissed.

Cumnock March 10th 1793

Session constitute, Sederunt all the members.

Compeared ultroneously Allan Stuart weaver and Margaret Welsh both in this village, declar's themselves married persons, and, being interrogated who married them, said, that they were married in the month of July last by a Justice of the Peace in neighbourhood and being farther interrogated, if they now adhered to the said marriage, they both declared that they did. They were declared married persons, and, in testimony of this, they signed this minute, along with the Moderator. (signed) Tho Miller, Allan Stewart, X – Mary Welsh's mark.

Cumnock March 17th 1793

Session constitute, all the members present.

Compeared ultroneously Jean Dalziel daughter of John Dalziel of Boreland Miln. The Moderator informed the Session that he had received an extract from a meeting of the Session of Kilmaurs from which it appeared from which it appeared that the said Jean Dalziel had in presence of said Session acknowledged herself with child and had accused David Aird late her fellow servant as the father of her child.

She was now in the presence of this Session interrogated whether she adhered to said accusation which she did.

There was produced to this Session a letter signed David Aird and dated at Cumnock upon the 16th instant the tenor of which follows.

“Revd Sir, As it is inconvenient for me to attend your Session tomorrow I send you this declaring myself guilty of the sin of fornication with Jean Dalziel, daughter of John Dalziel in Borland Mill, and I am willing to submit to the discipline of the church for this offence and I am Revd Sir your humble servant, David Aird.”

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The said Jean Dalziel was suitably exhorted by the Moderator in presence of the Session.

Cumnock April 14th 1793

Session met & constitute, Sederunt all the members.

Compeared ultroneously Thomas Love shoemaker in Cumnock & Elizabeth Johnston from Dumfries and acknowledged that they had been irregularly married and fined for said irregular marriage by two Justices of the peace, produced written evidence of the same. Being askd if they now adhered to one another as man and wife they declared solemnly in presence of the Session their fixed resolution to do so in future & in testimony thereof signed this minute along with the Moderator.

(signed) Tho Miller, Thomas Love, Elizabeth Johnston

Cumnock the 29th of April 1793

Session constitute, Sederunt all the members.

John Gibb one of their number was this day unanimously selected Elder to attend Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock May the 19th 1793

Session constitute, Sederunt all the members.

Compeared ultroneously Jean McCreeroch late from Carmichael in County of Lanark now in this parish acknowledged herself with child and being solemnly exhorted to be ingenuous declared that James Brown farmer in Eastend in parish of Carmichael is the father of her child, and that she has the fullest reason to believe that he will not deny the truth of this accusation. Tho Miller.

She was suitably exhorted and dismissed.

The Session authorise the Moderator to get from the Clerk a copy of this minute and to transmit the same to the Session of Carmichael that they may send to this Session the judicial acknowledgment of said James Brown previous to the woman's being absolved from the scandal.

Cumnock May the 23rd 1793

Session constitute, Sederunt all the members.

Compeared in consequence of citation Mary Mitchell. Daughter of Alexander Mitchell shoemaker in this village acknowledged herself with child and having been exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration declared that Allan Bog, weaver in this village is the father of her child, that she informed him of her situation and that she has reason to believe that the said William Bog when called for will acknowledge the truth of her accusation.

The Session order their officer to cite the said Allan Bog to compear before them on next Lords Day at which meeting of Session the said Mary Mitchell is now cited apud acta to compear.

The session taking into consideration the fewness of their present number unanimously agreed to authorise the Moderator to converse with the persons following whom they judge proper to be nominated as Elders viz in the village – William Simson, schoolmaster, Hugh Thomson, tanner & Mr James Taylor. And in the country David Welsh, smith in Bankend, Alexander Calder in Grimgrew park, Andrew White in P??ston, James Dun in Skares Auchinway, John Weir in

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Sillernburn, Mr Alison of Glaisnock, Hugh McCartney in Cloclounie, John Hunter in Little Auchingibbert and Andrew Sloan in Darmulloch & John Gemmel in Bridgend and after conversation with them severally to report to the Sesson, who agree upon receiving said report to proceed to the Election of such of them are likely to accept.

Cumnock June 21st 1793

This evening Session constitute, Sederunt all the members.

The Moderator reported that he had spoke with all the persons mentioned in the preceeding minute two only excepted, who, he understands were conversed with by the Elders. After consultation the Session did elect and hereby do elect the persons following as Elders of this parish.

William Simson, schoolmaster in this parish. Hugh Thomson in the village, David Welsh, smith in Bankend and Alexander Calder in Grimgrew Park, Andrew White in ?Bucarston, James Dun in Skares of Auchinway, John Hunter in Little Auchingibbert.

And the Session hereby appoint the Minister to take the usual legal steps for ordaining the said persons as Elders and to that effect agree to the serving of their edict next Lord's day.

The session agreed that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall be dispensed in this Congregation on sabbath the fourteenth of July next and that intimation of the same be given from the pulpit next Lord's Day.

Cumnock June 30th 1793

This day David Welsh, smith in Bankend, Alexander Calder in Grimgrew Park and William Simson, schoolmaster in Cumnock were (in consequence of their edict having been served on Sabbath last and as no valid objection to any of them was offered) regularly ordained Elders of this parish and received the right hand of fellowship accordingly.

Cumnock November 10th 1793

This day Session constitute, Sederunt all the members thereof.

William Simson one of their number was unanimously choice Elder to attend the Presbytery & Synod for the ensuing half year. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock November the 18th 1793

Session constitute, Sederunt the Moderator and three of the Elders, viz John Gibb, Alexander Calder and William Simson.

Compeared spontaneously Peter Dewar acknowledged himself to have been guilty of antenuptial fornication with Penelope Dalrymple his present wife. The Session in consequence of this said candid acknowledgement and of certain circumstances in his case agreed that he should be Sessionally rebuked and absolved from said scandal which was this day done accordingly. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock February 23rd 1794

Compeared ultroneously William Fergusson wright in Cumnock and Agnes Hood his wife & acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication. The Session agreeable to the ?? laid down by them to be observed in future, ordered the Moderator to rebuke them Sessionally, and that they shall be exacted a fine of six shillings and eight pence sterling. They were both sessionally rebuked and absolved accordingly.

Cumnock February 23rd 1794

Session constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and most of the Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Marion Stodert, daughter of Rober Stodart in this village acknowledged that she lately brought forth a child in fornication and declared that Allan Bog, weaver in this village is the father of her child. She also says that she sent information of this to the said Allan Bog by her uncle.

The Session having considered this accusation order their officer to cite said Allan Bog to compear before them tomorrow at midday in the house of John Gibb one of their number, at which meeting said Marion Stodart is now summoned apud acta to compear.

Cumnock March 30th 1794

Session constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and most of the Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Janet Strachan at present in Ridge of New Cumnock acknowledged herself with child and having been seriously exhorted declared that James McKerrow apprentice to James Inglis junior in Whitesmuir of this parish is the father of her child and that the guilt was committed eight days before hallow day at Bowhouse in this parish and that this is the truth and that she acquainted said James McKerrow of this her situation who said he would take the child if it came to his time. Tho Miller

The Session order their officer to summond said James McKerrow to compear before them tomorrow at midday the to make answers to said accusation, against which meeting said Janet Strachan is now cited apud acta to compear.

Cumnock March 31st 1794

Session constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and most of the Elders.

Compeared in consequence of citation Janet Strachan and James McKerrow mentioned in last minutes of Session. The said last minute of session having been read over before them, said Janet Strachan was interrogated whether or not she adhered to her declaration there emitted to which she answered that she does still adhere thereto. And the said James McKerrow compearing and having been exhorted to ingenuity acknowledged that he was living in the house of Bowhouse at the time mentioned, being hired to his harvest there, that he had criminal conversation with her about the time of the last Michaelmas fair of Ayr in the month of October last, that since that time he never met with or had any conversation with said Janet Strachan till last Friday when she came to Whitesmuir and informed him of her being with child by him. The said James McKerrow desired that it should be mentioned that although aminding* to confession that he had carnal dealings with the said Janet Strachan at the time abovementioned that as he considers her to be a woman of bad character he must insist that he shall not be considered as the father of her child unless she can purge herself by oath before a civil court of having intercourse with any other man at or about that time. The Session unanimously consider the confession of said James McKerrow as an acknowledgement of the truth of said Janet Strachan's accusation against him. He was suitably exhorted and dismissed.

**aminding – minded or disposed towards*

Same day compeared also according to citation Marion Stodart mention in the minutes of yesterday. The Session being uncertain whether or not Allan Bog whom she had accused had been duly cited to

attend this meeting they resolved to hold another meeting of Session at six o'clock in the evening of Thursday first and order their officer to duly cite Allan Bog

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to attend said meeting and Marion Stodart being now foresent is cited apud acta to attend said meeting.

Cumnock April 3rd 1794

Session constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and most of the Elders.

Compeared Marion Stodart & Allan Bog mentioned in minutes of last meeting. In consequence of the Moderator having been necessarily detained beyond the hour of the meeting Allan Bog left a letter directed to the Moderator acknowledging that he is the father of her child the tenor of which letter is as followes

“Cumnock April 3rd 1794.

Revd Sir, In consequence of citation at the instance of Marion Stodart in this village I waited on Thursday evening the third current but finding you absent I hereby acknowledge that I am the father of the child which the said Marion Stodart brought forth and this I give under my hand before Alexander Calder, John Gibb and Wiliam Simson on this the third day of April seventeen hundred and ninety four. (signed) Allan Boag”

The Moderator coming in after the departure of said Allan Boag and having read over said acknowledgement the Session unanimously agree to allow Marion Stodart to appear in public next Lord's day to be rebuked for the scandal of her sin with said Allan Bog.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock May 4th 1794

Session constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the Members.

William Simson one of their number was unanimously elected Elder to attend Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock May 11th 1794

Session constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members of Session.

Compeared in consequence of citation Jean Weir in this village acknowledged that she lately brought forth a child in fornication and being seriously exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration declared that Alexander Lapraik an unmarried man living at present in Middle Wellwood in parish of Muirkirk

is the father of said child, that the guilt was committed in the month of April seventeen hundred and ninety three, and that the child was born in the month of December last, in the last week of said month, that she had informed him of the same before and since her delivery but has received no answer from him, and this is the truth. Tho Miller.

The Session ordered intimation of the above to be sent to the Session of Muirkirk that the said A Lapraik may be duly cited to compear before this Session and make answer to said accusation.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock June 8th 1794

This day Session constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

The Moderator read to the Session a letter directed to him dated the 7th of June signed by James Crawford, stocking weaver in Cumnock, the tenor whereof is as follows.

“Revd Sir,

If you will be so condescending as inform your Session tomorrow at midday that I acknowledge that I am the father of the child which Jean Murray

lately brought forth and that I look upon it as a duty incumbent upon me the father to do everything in my power consistent with regularity to have my child baptized as soon as judged convenient by the Session of Cumnock and that I therefore beg leave to be allowed to make my first public appearance tomorrow afternoon acknowledging this my offence. It will very much oblige, Revd Sir.

Your most obedient humble servant, (signed) James Crawford”

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The session having taken said acknowledgement and petition comprehended in said letter under their consideration thought proper to grant James Crawford his request and order their Moderator to take him under discipline this afternoon pro primo for the scandal of his acknowledged offence.

Cumnock July 6th 1794

Session constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members of Session.

Compeared ultroneously George Johnston in Craighouse acknowledged himself guilty of antenuptial fornication with Mary Pearson his wife, in consequence of which by order of the Session he is now rebuked by the Moderator for this his acknowledged crime and to absolve them from the scandal. Tho Miller

Cumnock October 26th 1794

This day Session constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members.

William Simson one of their number was unanimously elected Elder to attend Presbytery & Synod for the ensuing half year.

N.B The officer was this day ordered to cite James McKerrow apprentice to James Inglis jun. Smith in Whitesmuir to compear before this Session next Lord's Day.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Minister.

Cumnock November 2nd 1794

Session constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members.

Compeared in consequence of citation James McKerrow apprentice of James Inglis junior, smith in Whitesmuire acknowledged himself the father of the child which Janet Stachan mentioned in the minute of the first of March last, lately brought fourth. (signed) James McKerrow

He was suitably exhorted by the Moderator and dismissed.

The officer is ordered to cite Elizabeth Murray to compear before this Session this day se'enight.

Tho Miller, Minister.

Cumnock November 9th 1794

Session constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

The officer reports that he regularly cited Elizabeth Murray in this village, daughter of William Murray and Sarah Richmond to compear before this meeting of session as ordered at last sederunt but that she told him as she would then be at Dumfries it would be impossible for her to attend the Session this day, but promised that she would compear before them on this day se'enight.

The Session having taken the matter into consideration ordered their officer to cite her pro secundo as soon as he knows of her arrival at Cumnock to compear before them on this day se'enight.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller Moderator.

Cumnock November 16th 1794

Session being met this evening, the whole members thereof being present.

The officer reported that he had it not in his power to summon Elizabeth Murray to compear before this meeting of Session in consequence of not having returned to this place from Dumfries till late yesternight. The Session having considered this report ordered their Officer to cite her pro secundo to compear before them in the schoolroom on four o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday first being eighteenth day of this current month.

Cumnock November 18th 1794

This evening Session constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members except Alexander Calder.

Compeared in consequence of citation Elizabeth Murray, daughter of William Murray and Sarah Richmond in this village, acknowledged that she is with child and having been seriously exhorted to be ingenuous in her accusation declared that Thomas Baird stocking maker lately residing with William Stodart in this village now in Dumfries is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed about the latter end of April last, that she informed of this her situation previous to his leaving this place and that he having left this place in August last, she had gone last week to Dumfries again to inform him of her situation which she says she took an opportunity of doing before some witnesses, that he acknowledged the truth of her accusation but declined giving any written acknowledgement to that effect till he should hear of her delivery and this is the truth. (signed) Elisabeth Murray.

She was suitably exhorted and dismissed and the Moderator was desired to write to the minister of the Parish where said Thomas Baird resides informing him of said accusation. Tho Miller, Moderator

NB Thomas Baird sent a letter to Elizabeth Murray dated (blank space) (which letter is in the possession of said Elizabeth Murray) acknowledging himself the father of her child with which he as above is accused.

Cumnock 1794 – no date

This day Session being met in the house of John Gibb, Elder and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

Compeared ultroneously Andrew Thom, gardener at Dumfries and Margaret Wilson spouses acknowledging themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and

Having now in presence of Session been seriously exhorted and rebuked for this their acknowledged irregularity by the Moderator they were by order of the Session absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock the 3rd May 1795

Session met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all other members.

David Welsh, one of their number was unanimously elected Elder to attend Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock the 3rd August 1795

In consequence of a report prevailing in this village that Elizabeth Girvan an inhabitant thereof (mentioned in the minute of 19th December 1790) is again with child, the Session this day appoint two of their number to go to her personally at any time convenient during the course of this week to interrogate her as to the truth of this (she being at the time so indisposed as to be utterly incapable of attending any meeting of Session, and to report her answer to the Session at their next meeting on this day se'en night.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock the 23^d August 1795

This day the Session being met after sermon. Sederunt all the members except David Welsh.

The two members appointed at last sederunt reported that they interrogated Elizabeth Girvan yesterday in her own house as to the fama clamosa concerning her, that she acknowledged the truth of her being at present with child and desired one of them to deliver to the Moderator her letter of acknowledgement and accusation directed to him the tenor whereof follows.

“Revd Sir, I hereby acknowledge to you & to the other members of the Kirk Session of Cumnock that I am at present with child, that Allan Bog weaver in Holmbreck near to this village is the father of this child & that the guilt was committed in the month of February last so far as I at present can recollect. I am Sir your humble servant (signed) Elizabet Girvan Cumnock August 22nd 1795.”

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In consequence of this letter which was produced & read the officer was ordered to cite Allan Boag to compear before this Session upon Thursday the first of September to make answer to the said accusation. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock the September 1st 1795

Session met in the schoolhouse this day & constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb and William Simson Elders.

Allan Bog being called did not compear but there was given in to the Minister by the Kirk Officer a letter from said Allan Bog the tenor of whereof follows.

“Sir, As for this woman that you speak of, Betty Girvan, I know nothing about her nor never did and I think it well serve for no end to say any more about it as I am clear of her. (signed) Allan Boag

The Session understanding that since their former minute relative to this affair, Elizabeth Girvan has deceased and knowing that the fama against the said Allan Boag still continues to prevail, in order to get what light they can into this affair they order him to be cited pro secundo to compear before this Session next Lord's Day, and the citation of summons to be returned by the officer.

(At this point in the minutes, there are pages missing and some which have been inserted in the wrong place – they have become confused with entries on page 68 of the minutes. The entry in blue below is subsequently linked to the entry for 29th July 1798 and then again on 14th Feb 1800 where it is clear that there has been gossip about Jean Key and William Nichol. The entry above in red is taken from page 68.)

... the inner was shut but not barr'd, that she took notice of this to her husband, but to very few else. Being interrogate at the instance of William Nichol, if she recollects, whether the place she saw then at was not at, or near the door that leads into Samuel Mitchel's garnal*, she declares upon the recollection, that it was at or near that door. Being further urged by William Nichol how she would see him buttoning his ballop** when by her own acknowledgement, his back was turned towards her, and further, had not seen any of his nakedness answered that she was positive that she did see him buttoning his ballop, as above declared and this is the truth causa scientice partet. Declaring she cannot write. Thomas Miller.

Compeared Agnes Pearson wife of John Russell at the Toll, who, being solemnly sworn, and purged of malice, or partial counsel, was asked, if she had ever seen, since her residence beside Samuel Mitchel and James Key, any unseemly behaviour betwixt William Nichol and Jane Key, declares that she never had seen anything of that nature although she had long lived in the ?? houses with them, there being only an ?? door betwixt them and this is the truth causa scientice patet. (signed) Agnes Pearson

Compeared Charles Crichton, son of William Crichton, in Midtown of Borland, who being solemnly sworn, and purged of malice and partial council. Jane Key objects to this witness that

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he had once, in the absence of her husband, (he being at Edinburgh as far as she can recollect) a twelve month ago, attempted to come into the Tollbar house, and, the door being barred, urged her to open the door, which she positively refused. That the night following, upon his returning through the Toll from Kilmarnock, he again urged her to leave the door unbarred, saying that he had brought her a ribbon from Kilmarnock, and would give it her, if she would let him in, to which she replied, that if he had bought a ribbon he might give to the one he had bought it to, for it would never be to her, and ordered him to be gone.

The Session agree to examine the witness notwithstanding of the above objection.

He declares that some night last summer, being in company with David Richmond, he saw William Nichol, & Jane Key, at the Tollbar at about ten or eleven o'clock at night that they both went into Buchan's Byre, did not remain (to the best of his recollection) a minute there. That on their coming out of it, Jane Key went into her own house, came out again, that they walked together a little bit of the road towards Hugh McKerrow's yeatt*, parted there, she returning to her own house and -

Cumnock September 6th 1795

This day Session constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

The officer reported that agreeable to order he cited Allan Boag mentioned in last minute pro secundo who being called did not compear. The Session unanimously agreed in appointing their

Officer as they hereby appoint him to cite the said Allan Boag pro tertio with certification to compear before them next Lord's day to answer personally to the charge brought against him.
Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock September 13th 1795

This day Session met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members.

Compeared in consequence of citation pro tertio Allan Boag, mentioned in the two former minutes and the dying declaration of Elizabeth Givan mentioned in minute of the 23rd August last being read to him and he being exhorted to be ingenuous to tell the truth as to this matter declared himself altogether free of any criminal connexion with said Elizabeth Girvan. And different members of Session having endeavoured to represent to him the deead's dying declaration in its proper light he still continued to declare that he had no criminal conversation with her.

The session taking this whole matter into consideration & recollecting that this is a quadrilapse as to the said William Boag they refer this whole

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matter to the Presbytery of Ayr ordering the Moderator to lay before them at their first meeting on the 25th of November next to which meeting of Presbytery said William Boag was apud acta cited to compear. Tho Miller, Moderator.

(Allan Boag did not appear at the Presbytery on 25th November, and was cited to appear at the next meeting. He appeared before Ayr Presbytery on 10th December 1795, where he was rebuked and referred back to Cumnock Kirk Session for them to deal with him as per church rules.)

Cumnock September 25th 1795

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members of Session.

Compeared ultroneously Margaret Cox acknowledged that she lately brought forth a child in fornication and declared that William Lamont late stocking maker in Cumnock, now in the Navy is the father of her child.

There was at same time produced a letter to the Moderator from said W Lamont signed by him before two witnesses acknowledging the truth of her charge. The Session having been informed that this is a relapse into fornication by the said Margaret Cox were unanimously of opinion that she should be treated accordingly, and therefore they order her to make her first public appearance here next Lord's day. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock November 22nd 1795

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members (David Welsh excepted).

Alexander Calder one of their number was unanimously chosen to attend Presbytery & Synod for the ensuing half year.

The Officer is now ordered to cite Allan Boag mentioned in former minutes to compear before the Presbytery of Ayr at Ayr upon Wednesday first with certification to answer as to the charge of the lately deceased Elizabeth Girvan and to return to the Moderator in writing the execution of summons prior to said Wednesday.

Cumnock November 30th 1795

This day Session being met in the schoolhouse and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator & John Gibb & William Simson Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Jean Simson presently residing with her uncle Hugh Simson near to the Toll in this parish acknowledged herself to be with child, but as the person whom she meant to accuse as the father of her child has given her reason to hope that a marriage may ensue the Session delay the farther consideration of her affair till this day se'enight in hopes that betwixt and that day the names of these parties will be given in for proclamation of Banns.

N.B. She was afterwards proclaimed and married accordingly on David Aird the father of said child.

Sametime compeared spontaneously George Houston and Jean Campbell in this village acknowledged themselves to have been guilty of antenuptial fornication and having been seriously exhorted and rebuked before the Session for their acknowledged irregularity by the Moderator they were by order of Session absolved from the scandal.

Cumnock February 3rd 1796

This evening the Session being met in the house of John Gibb and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator & John Gibb & William Simson.

Compeared David Aird & Jean Simson (mentioned in the minute of the 30th of November last) spontaneously, acknowledged themselves to have been guilty

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of antenuptial fornication and having been seriously exhorted and rebuked before the Session by the Moderator for this their acknowledged irregularity they were by order of the Session absolved from the scandal. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock the 8th May 1796

This evening the Session being met and constitute after sermon, Sederunt the Moderator & John Gibb, David Welsh & William Simson Elders.

Compeared spontaneously John Loudon & Mary Howatson spouses since Friday the twenty ninth of last month acknowledged themselves to have been guilty of antenuptial fornication and having been seriously exhorted and rebuked before the Session by the Moderator for this their acknowledged irregularity they were by order of the Session absolved from the scandal.

Eodem die John Gibb one of the members of Session was unanimously elected elder to attend Presbyter & synod for the ensuing half year. Tho Miller, Minister.

Cumnock 23^d June 1796

This day Session being met and constituted in the schoolhouse. Sederunt the Moderator & John Gibb & William Simson Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Anne Muir presently in Boylstone in this parish acknowledged herself with child and having been seriously exhorted by the Moderator to be ingenuous in her declaration as to who is the father of her child, declared that Alexander Nichol in Coslar in this parish is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed about a fortnight after martinmass last old style, that she in repeated instances informed him of her situation but that he beg'd of her not to mention in public her situation for some time as he would afterwards send satisfactory letter as to this affair and this is the truth. She declares she cannot write & desires the Moderator to sign for her. Tho Miller.

As the above Alexander Nickle has lately left this part of the country nor is likely to return for some time, the Session must delay the farther consideration of this affair for time. She was Sessionally rebuked upon her acknowledgement and for the present dismissed. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock August 28th 1796

This day Session being met and constituted in the schoolhouse. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members of Session.

In consequence of a report prevailing that Susan Buchan in this village and Jean McCrae in this parish are with child the Officer was at a late meeting of session ordered to cite them both before this meeting.

Susan Buchan compeared not but sent a letter to the Moderator the tenor whereof follows

“Cumnock August 28th 1796

Revd Sir, I hereby acknowledge that I am with child and that I thought to have waited your Session this day as ordered, but as the father who is at present at a distance has given me reasons to expect marriage on his return which will be soon I earnestly beg & humbly hope the Session will be so indulgent as not to insist on my compearance before them

till I hear again from the father it will much oblige, Revd Sir, Your humble Servant Susan Buchan”

The Session having considered this her petition think proper to grant her a little indulgence as required.

Jean McCrae did not compear but promised to compear before this Session next Lord’s day & their Officer is ordered to cite her again accordingly.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller

Cumnock September 4th 1796

This day Session being met and constituted in the schoolhouse. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

Compeared in consequence of citation Jean McCrae in Bridgend mentioned in last minute acknowledged herself with child, and having been seriously exhorted by the Moderator to be ingenuous in her declaration, declared that William Latta, son of John Latta, a carrier in Bridgend, is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed about a month before Whitsunday, that she has already informed him of this, her situation, & that he does not deny the charge, all which is the truth. (signed) Jane McCre

After being suitably exhorted by the Moderator she is cited apud acta to compear before this Session this day fortnight against which meeting of Session the Officer is ordered to cite the said William Latta to compear. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock September 25th 1796

This day Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members.

Compeared spontaneously David Wallace & Janet Moody spouses, lately residing in this parish acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and having been seriously rebuked were absolved from the scandal by order of the Session having had the usual fine exacted in such cases.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock October 9th 1796

This day Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and most of the Elders.

The office reported that he had duly cited Jean McCrae and William Latta mentioned in a former minute.

Jean McCrae compeared, William Latta though called did not compear but there was produced a letter from him the tenor whereof follows

“Revd Dr Miller,

I am summoned to attend your Session on Sunday first at the instance of Jean McCrae, for some reasons known to myself it is not in my power to attend, I have thought it proper to advise the Session that I will not father any child that she may lay to my charge as yet. I am Sir your... William Latta”

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Jean McCrae being asked by the Moderator if she still adhered to her former declaration made before this Session declared that she still adheres to her declaration.

She is cited apud acta to compear before this Session next Lord’s Day against which meeting the officer is ordered again to cite said William Latta to compear. Tho Miller

Cumnock October 16th 1796

This day Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and most of the Elders present.

Compeared in consequence of citation Jean McCrae and William Latta mentioned in last minute. The said William Latta being questioned as to the truth of Jean McCrae’s accusation candidly acknowledged that he has been guilty with her. He was suitably acknowledged and dismissed.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock November 6th 1796

Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders, David Welsh excepted.

Compeared ultroneously Jean Samson, daughter of Adam Samson near Dumfries House acknowledged herself with child and having been suitable exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration declared that James Mirrie servant in Changue is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed about the beginning of June last, that she had informed him of her situation sometime ago. This she declares is truth. Tho Miller.

She is cited apud acta to compear before this Session next Lord’s Day against which meeting the Officer is ordered to cite the said James Mirrie to compear.

Cumnock November 13th 1796

Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator with John Gibb & William Simson Elders.

John Gibb was reelected Elder to attend the Presbytery for ensuing half year.

James Mirrie mentioned in last minute did not compear but there was produced by the Clerk a letter directed to the Moderator from said James Mirrie and read in the hearing of the Session, the tenor whereof follows.

“Revd Sir, I hope that you and the other members of Session will dispense with my absence at your meeting this day to which I was duly cited and I hereby acknowledge to you and all concerned that I am the father of Jean Samson’s child as she I understand declared to you at your last meeting of Session, and I am willing to submit to whatever discipline this my misconduct subjects me when the Session shall find convenient and am Revd Sir, your humble servant, signed James Mirrie.

The Session delivered said letter to their Clerk ordering it to be kept in relentis.

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Cumnock November 14th 1796

This evening Session being met in the Schoolhouse and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb & William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously John Howat servant to Mr Swan in this village and Eupheme Hodge, spouses, acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and having been seriously rebuked for this their irregularity and suitably exhorted by the Moderator and having paid the fine usually exacted in such cases were by order of the Session absolved from the scandal.

Tho Miller.

Cumnock 16th January 1797

Compeared spontaneously Susanna Buchan, daughter of Robert Buchan, mason in this village mentioned in the minute of the 28th of August last acknowledged herself to have brought forth some time ago a child in fornication, declared that William Brown, mason, son of Hugh Brown, weaver in this village is the father of her child and produced a letter from said William Brown (who has for some months past been out of the country) dated Bolton Lancashire the 11th of December last which being read the Session were of opinion contained an acknowledgement of the truth of her said charge. She was suitably exhorted and dismiss’d. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 7th May 1797

Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

In consequence of appointment of presbytery compeared Jean Dempster presently residing in Nethertoun of Borland, formerly servant in Merkland in Parish of New Cumnock acknowledged herself to have brought forth a child in uncleanness in the month of November last, and produced from Daniel Wilson a single person whom she accuses as the father of said child a line acknowledging the truth of her accusation.

The Session agreeable to the above appointment of presbytery ordering them to take her upon discipline in consequence of there being no Session in new Cumnock where the guilt was committed,

agreed to take the said Jean Dempster on the public profession of repentance and according order her to make her first public appearance next Lords's day. Tho Miller

Cumnock 21st May 1797

Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members except David Welsh.

John Gibb one of their number was unanimously reelected Elder to attend presbytery & Synod for the current half year.

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Cumnock 11th June 1797

This day the Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

Compeared spontaneously Jean Baird late servant to John Wylie, merchant in Cumnock, acknowledged that she on the twenty fourth day of May seventeen hundred and ninety six brought forth a child in fornication, and having been suitably exhorted to be ingenuous declared that the said John Wylie her late master is the father of her child, and that the guilt was committed nine months and a few days before the date of the birth. That her situation was well known to her said master and that she has reason to believe he acknowledged the justice of this charge. She was suitably exhorted by the Moderator and cited apud acta to compear before this Session next Lord's day against which meeting the Officer is ordered to cite said John Wylie to compear to answer said accusation. Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock 15th June 1797

This day Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator with John Gibb & William Simson Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Alexander Downie and Anne Bell spouse in this village acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and having been seriously rebuked for this their irregularity and suitably exhorted by the Moderator and having paid the fine usually exacted in such cases were by order of the Session absolved from the scandal. Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock 18th June 1797

This day the Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and most of the other members.

The Officer reported that he had duly cited according to appointment John Wylie mentioned in last minute. Compeared according to citation Janet Baird. The above John Wylie being regularly called did not compear.

The Session order their officer to cite him pro secundo to compear before this Session in the house of John Gibb on Thursday the twenty ninth of this current month against which meeting the said Jean Baird is cited apud acta to compear. Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock 29th June 1797

This evening Session being met and constitute in the house of John Gibb. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session except David Welsh.

The officer reported that he had duly cited John Wylie mentioned in last minute, according to appointment.

Compeared according to citation Jean Baird also mentioned in last minutes. The above John Wylie being regularly called did not compear.

The Session order their Officer to summon the said John Wylie pro tertio to compear before this Session upon Sabbath the sixteenth of July next with certification that if he shall not then compear the Session shall hold him as acquiescing in the charge brought against him by the said Jean Baird, against which meeting of Session the said Jean Baird is cited apud acta to compear. Tho Miller, Minister

Cumnock 16th July 1797

This evening Session being met and constitute after sermon. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

The officer reported that he had duly cited John Wylie mentioned in the last minute as ordered the third time with certification. Compeared according to citation Jean Baird also mentioned in last minute. The above John Wylie being regularly called did not compear.

In consequence of his non compearance, notwithstanding of his having been three times legally summoned the said John Wylie is considered by the Session as virtually acknowledging the truth of Jean Baird's accusation. She was suitably exhorted and dismissed accordingly.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 15th October 1797

This day the Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

The officer reported that agreeable to order he had duly cited Jean Wood, daughter of Jean Skirring in this village and Janet Gemmel also residing in this village to attend this Session upon information of their being said to be with children in fornication. They being duly called did not compear in consequence of which the Officer was ordered to summon them pro secundo to compear before this session next Lord's day. Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock 22nd October 1797

This day Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

The officer reported that he had duly cited the persons mentioned in last minute pro secundo and farther informs that Jannet Gemmel one of them having last week brought forth a child was therefore disabled to attend on Session agreeable to summons.

From Jean Wood the other person there was produced a letter informing that from the

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bad state of health she is at present under she also is unable to attend on the Session at this time but acknowledges in her letter her being with child and delets* as the father of her child George Brown merchant in Cumnock.

There was also produced a letter from the said George Brown acknowledging agreeable to Jean Wood's accusation his being the father of her child.

Both these letters were ordered to be kept in relentis and the Session for the present delayed the farther consideration of the cases of these two persons. Tho Miller, Moderator.

**delets = delates - accuses*

Cumnock 12th November 1797

Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

William Simson one of the members was unanimously elected Elder to attend presbytery and synod for the ensuing half year. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 19th November 1797

Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

Compeared in consequence of citation Janet Gemmel in this village acknowledged that she lately brought forth a child in uncleanness and having been seriously exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration declared that James Muir in parish of Craigie & in Adam Mill Hill of that parish is the father of her child and that she formerly told him of her situation that he was lately here since her delivery, and that he acknowledged then also the truth of her charge and then engaged to take care if the child after it is one year old as appears from a paper produced by her to the Session and signed by him. she was suitably exhorted and dismissed.

The minister is authorised by the session to write to the Minister of Craigie transmitting a copy of this minute to him in order to his procuring and remitting to this Session a judicial acknowledgement from said James Muir of the truth or falsehood of the charge brought against him by Janet Gemmel.

Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock 28th February 1798

This day Session being met in the schoolhouse and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Anne Lennox daughter to Alexander Lennox in in Woodside acknowledged herself with child in fornication and having been seriously exhorted to being ingenuous in her declaration as to who is the father of her child declared that William White, stocking weaver, son of James White, baker in this village is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed at Woodside about the latter end of August last, being the week after dispensing the Sacrament at Auchinleck, that she acquainted him with her situation, that he desired her thereupon to delete another person as the father of her child, threatening that id she did not and should delete him as the father of her child that in such case he would leave the country and that this is the truth. (signed) Anne Lennox.

She was suitably exhorted, dismissed, and cited apud acta to compear before Session next Lord's Day to which meeting of Session the officer is ordered to cite the foresaid William White to compear. Tho Miller

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Cumnock 4th March 1798

Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb, Alexander Calder & William Simson Elders.

Compeared in consequence of citation Anne Lennox & William White mentioned in last minute. She adhered to her former declaration and he the said William White having been solemnly exhorted to be ingenuous in his answer solemnly denied the charge and aver'd that he never had any criminal correspondence with her, acknowledges that he has been repeatedly in her company, the first time along with Crawford Crichton daughter to William Crichton, officer in this village about the time of raising of potatoes. The second time on his way from Dalmellington when he called there being very wet as to his feet in order to dry them and the third time about three of four weeks ago in company with Jean Welsh daughter of Margaret Hetrick and a fourth time since that time when he went out at the desire of his Aunt to request her not to come into his grandfather's house when she pressed him to stay all night and to sleep with her but denied positively her being with child. (signed) William White.

She acknowledges that he told her on the time last mentioned that the report from the country was that she was to bear her child in the course of two month which she denied, and supposes this to be the denial he refers to adding that if she had the child in the course of two months from that date it not be to him.

The Session having heard both parties as above think proper to delay the farther consideration of this affair till some future opportunity.

Cumnock 19th May 1798

This evening Session being met in the schoolhouse and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members.

Compeared spontaneously Alexander Thomson, spouse to Margaret Black in Bent, acknowledged himself guilty of antenuptial fornication, and, having been seriously rebuked for this his acknowledged irregularity, and suitably exhorted by the Moderator, and having paid the fine usually exacted in similar cases, was by order of the Session absolved from the scandal.

Cumnock 26th May 1798

This evening Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members.

Compeared spontaneously David Moody, coachman at Dumfries House, acknowledged himself guilty of antenuptial fornication with Mary Caldwell in Weelside of Auchinleck his spouse and having been seriously rebuked and suitably exhorted by the Moderator he was by order of the Session absolved from the scandal.

Same day William Simson one of the members of Session was unanimously reelected Elder to attend Prebytery & Synod for the ensuing half year.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 26th July 1798

This evening Session being met in the schoolhouse and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

Jean Key, spouse to Samuel Mitchell principal tacksman of the Toll Bar here, having in consequence of a fama against her been refused for preventing public offence a token when the Lord's Supper was last dispensed her and having craved that said fama should be enquired into and the Session having complied with her request.

Compeared the said Jean Key, and compeared also at her desire Mary Ralston spouse to William Nichol, Innkeeper, and the said Mary Ralston being questioned, what she had to say to the disparagement of the character of the said Jean Key answered she had nothing to say to the said Jean Key to the character of the said Jean Key, but that she apprehended her husband her husband had in time past too much frequented the house of the said Jean Key and if he should in future withhold from doing the same she has and should have no more to find fault with it.

Jean Key in answer, said, that William Nichols frequenting the house of her husband, was for the sake of money transactions, as she was sure William Nichol would not deny. William Nichol being sent for and questioned as to the same, acknowledged the truth of it.

The Session having taken this affair into consideration the majority of them are satisfied, from Mary Ralston declaration that there is as yet no ground of evidence for the fama against Jean Key, absolved her from the same: and order their Moderator to intimate this their judgment to the parties and to recommend it to the mutually to live as Christian and Christian neighbours should do. The parties being called in the Session's judgement was intimated to them and they were exhorted accordingly.

Cumnock 30th August 1798

Session being met in the schoolhouse and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb & William Simson Elders.

Compeared spontaneously James Mirrie and Jean Wilson spouses acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and having been seriously rebuked and suitably exhorted by the Moderator they were absolved from said scandal and as the said James Mirrie still remains under scandal for relapse into fornication from which he never yet has been absolved the Session authorise the Minister to baptise their child born sometime ago – he taking the said Jean Wilson the mother of the child as sponsor.

Cumnock 4th November 1798

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

William Simson one of their number was unanimously reelected Elder to attend Presb. & Synod for the ensuing half year.

Cumnock 28th February 1799

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all members present.

Compeared spontaneously John Leybourn and Janet McGuffock acknowledged themselves guilty of irregular marriage and solemnly declared before the Session their purpose of adhering to one another in future as man and wife were rebuked for their irregularity and dismissed.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 19th March 1799

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb and William Simson, Elders.

The Officer reported that he had duly summoned William Latta of this parish, now a private in Col. Fullarton's Regiment at the instance of Marion Gibson, daughter of Helen Gibson in the parish of Carmichael, who some time ago brought forth a child in fornication and accuses said W Latta as being the father of her child.

Said William Latta not compearing the officer was ordered again to summons him before a meeting of this Session with certification tomorrow evening at six o'clock.

Cumnock 19th March 1799

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

Compeared spontaneously William McMillan and Jean Mirrie in this village acknowledged themselves guilty of irregular marriage in the month of July last and solemnly declared before the Session their purpose of adhering to one another in future were rebuked for their irregularity and dismissed.

Same day David Welsh one of the members of Session was unanimously elected Elder to attend Presbytery & Synod for the ensuing half year. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 7th July 1799

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

Compeared John Key and Isabell Latta in this village acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication in the month of (blank) last acknowledged their sorrow for this offence & were rebuked for this their irregularity and dismissed.

Cumnock 21st July 1799

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

Compeared spontaneously Peter Wilson farm servant at Dumfries House and Margaret Watt spouses acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and their sorrow for this their offence were rebuked for this irregularity and dismissed by order of Session being now absolved from the scandal.

Cumnock 9th September 1799

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Thomas Hamilton merchant in this village acknowledged himself guilty of antenuptial fornication with Agnes McKinlay his spouse and expressed his sorrow for this offence was rebuked by the Moderator for the irregularity and by order of the Session absolved from the scandal. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 30th September 1799

Session being met in the house of John Gibb. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Jean Key, daughter of James Key cooper in this village, acknowledged herself with child and having been exhorted to be ingenuous, and interrogated who is the father declared that Andrew Muir stocking maker in this village is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed about Old New Year's Day last and that she had informed him of her situation to which he replied he would make answer when called. She declares she cannot write and therefore desires the Moderator to sign this. Tho Miller.

She was suitably exhorted and summoned apud acta to compear before Session next Lord's Day to which meeting of Session the Officer is ordered to cite said Andrew Muir to attend.

Tho Miller.

Cumnock 6th Oct 1799

Session being met this evening and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb, David Welsh and William Simson, Elders.

The Officer reported that he had duly summoned Andrew Muir mentioned in last minute as then ordered to attend this meeting of Session who being most regularly called did not compear. The Officer is therefore ordered to summon the said Andrew Muir pro secundo to compear before this Session this day se'ennight to which meeting of Session Jean Key is now cited again apud acta to compear. Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock 13th Oct 1799

Session met and constituted. Present the Moderator and all the members of Session except William Simson, necessarily absent.

The parties above mentioned were called. The above Andrew Muir compeared & the charge of Jane Key being read to him, he denied the said charge in toto*, & alleging that he never had any criminal intercourse with her, & was indeed scare at all acquainted, nor in company with her. The officer reported that said Jane Key, having since last meeting, been delivered of a child, could not attend this diet of Session. In consequence of her absence the affair was delayed til her recovery from childbed should enable her to attend & make good, as she can, her accusation of Andrew Muir.

Tho Miller

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Cumnock 26th January 1800

This evening Session being met this evening and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

Compeared spontaneously Janet Gemmel in this village acknowledged herself with child in uncleanness and being seriously exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration who is the father and interrogated declared that William Robison shoe maker in this village is the father of her child. That the guilt was committed about three weeks before Whitsunday last, that she sometime ago informed the said William Robison of this her condition and that he told her that it might belong to some other man as well as to him and this is truth and declares she cannot write. Tho Miller

She was cited apud acta to compear before this Session in the school house upon Friday first to which meeting of Session the officer is ordered to cite the said William Robison to compear.

The Clerk now produced a line from John Wylie merchant in this village in favour of Christian Hunter in Auchingibbert the tenor whereof follows

“These are to show that I hereby acknowledge that Christian Hunter’s child in Auchingibbert to be my son and designs to act the part of a parent to her child (signed) John Wylie”.

The Session consider this as a sufficient acknowledgement by John Wylie of Christian Hunter’s charge and therefore allow her to be admitted upon discipline whenever she shall choose to crave that privilege.

Cumnock 31st January 1800

This evening Session being met this evening and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the Members.

The Officer reported that he duly summoned William Robison mentioned in last minutes.

Compeared said William Robison in consequence of citation as also compeared Janet Gemmel mentioned in last minute. Janet Gemmel declared her adherence to her declaration made before this Session stated in last minute.

The said minute being read to over to William Robison he declared that though he could not refuse having had criminal intercourse with the said Janet Gemmel yet he is positive that said intercourse did not happen at the time mentioned by her and therefore he puts that this declaration will not be held by the Session as an acknowledgement upon his part as being the father of her child the rather as he considers the said Janet Gemmel to be a woman of bad character as she may be proven to have had intercourse with other men and this declaration he is ready to sign. (signed) William Robertson.

Janet Gemmel upon hearing the above declaration declared her readiness to prove that William Robison was in company with her at the time libelled and craves that for that end John Wylie shop keeper in Cumnock and Jane Finlay, wife of James Key cooper in Cumnock may be summoned to declare before this Session what they know as to this affair.

The Session having taken this affair into consideration grant the requisition of said Janet Gemmel, order their Officer to summons the above mentioned John Wylie and Jane Finlay to attend a meeting of this Session to be held in the school

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house upon Thursday the sixth of February next to which meeting the parties now present were summoned apud acta to give their attendance.

This day James Johnston in this village who has for some time performed the of parish bedle and Kirk officer was unanimously elected by the Session to the these (sic) office of Kirk officer and took the Oath de fidele.

Cumnock 6th February 1800

This evening Session being met this evening and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the Members except Alexander Calder who is necessarily absent.

The Officer reported that he had summoned John Wylie and Jane Findlay mentioned in last minute.

He further reported that Janet Gemmel the pursuer being much indisposed was unable to attend this meeting of Session.

The witnesses summoned duly attended but as Janet Gemmel owing to indisposition cannot attend the Session delayed the further consideration of this affair till some future opportunity which being notified to William Robison the defender now present he craved that the following persons George Johnston carter in Cumnock & Elizabeth Scott wife to James McCartney taylor there, Jane Key, daughter of James Key, cooper there might when the Session next entered upon the consideration of this affair be summoned to declare what they know to the character of Janet Gemmel the pursuer.

The Session agreed to grant the said requisition and ordered their officer accordingly.

The Session eodem die at the requisition of the parties agree to meet in the schoolhouse upon Friday come eight days, the fourteenth current, and then to take into their consideration, a fama respecting William Nichol, innkeeper in the village and Jane Key wife to Samuel Mitchell, tollkeeper here and to take the declarations upon oath of the persons following, namely Charles Crichton, son of William Crichton in Midtown of Borland, David Richmond servant to Mr McVitie in the village, William Robison, shoemaker there, John Moody, weaver there & James Crawford, stockingmaker there. Elizabeth Parker, wife of Robert Buchan, mason there, Susanna Buchan, daughter of said Robert Buchan, John Russel & Agnes Pearson spouses there, James Key carter there, Elizabeth Anderson there, Helen Hunter wife of William Craig in Woodhead, David Anderson weaver there, James Moody (weaver). Mary McCartney, wife of Hugh McCally there, James Anderson, weaver in Cumnock, Hugh Clymie shoemaker in Cumnock, Jane Weir, indweller in Cumnock, Hugh Crawford, weaver in Cumnock, William son of James McGhie weaver in Cumnock, John Goldie weaver in Cumnock, Elisabeth Brown spouse to said John Goldie, William McCartney taylor in Cumnock.

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Cumnock 14th February 1800

This evening Session being met this evening and constituted in the schoolroom. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

The Session entered upon the consideration of the Fama mentioned in the last minute respecting William Nichol and Jane Key, when they agreed to intimate their entering into said consideration to the parties concerned, who being present, the following witnesses were called.

Compeared Helen Hunter spouse of William Craig in Woodhead, who being solemnly sworn and purg'd of partial council was asked if she had ever seen while she resided in the neighbourhood of the Tollhouse any unseemly behaviour between William Nichol and Jane Key mentioned in last minute declares that she never saw anything unseemly then between these two, had frequently seen said William Nichol going into the Tollhouse but knew not upon what account. Being further urged if she had never seen William Nichol come out of a bed or out of a corner of Jane Key's house, when residing in John Russel's house, declares that once when she went there to get some small weights she saw the parties together alone, when which William Nichol turned his face from the deponent, seemingly in a confused manner buttoned his ballup, that she saw nothing more

unseemly, having immediately after, gone out of the said house, that she recollects that the outer door was open but

(the following section in blue has been copied from page 52, where it has been inserted in the wrong place but is clearly the continuation of this entry on page 68.)

the inner was shut but not barr'd, that she took notice of this to her husband, but to very few else. Being interrogate at the instance of William Nichol, if she recollects, whether the place she saw then at was not at , or near the door that leads into Samuel Mitchel's garnal*, she declares upon the recollection, that it was at or near that door. Being further urged by William Nichol how she would see him buttoning his ballop** when by her own acknowledgement, his back was turned towards her, and further, had not seen any of his nakedness answered that she was positive that she did see him buttoning his ballop, as above declared and this is the truth causa scientice partet. Declaring she cannot write. Thomas Miller.

Compeared Agnes Pearson wife of John Russell at the Toll, who, being solemnly sworn, and purged of malice, or partial counsel, was asked, if she had ever seen, since her residence beside Samuel Mitchel and James Key, any unseemly behaviour betwixt William Nichol and Jane Key, declares that she never had seen anything of that nature although she had long lived in the ?? houses with them, there being only an ?? door betwixt them and this is the truth causa scientice patet. (signed) Agnes Pearson

Compeared Charles Crichton, son of William Crichton, in Midtown of Borland, who being solemnly sworn, and purged of malice and partial council. Jane Key objects to this witness that

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he had once, in the absence of her husband, (he being at Edinburgh as far as she can recollect) a twelve month ago, attempted to come into the Tollbar house, and, the door being barred, urged her to open the door, which she positively refused. That the night following, upon his returning through the Toll from Kilmarnock, he again urged her to leave the door unbarred, saying that he had brought her a ribbon from Kilmarnock, and would give it her, if she would let him in, to which she replied, that if he had bought a ribbon he might give to the one he had bought it to, for it would never be to her, and ordered him to be gone.

The Session agree to examine the witness notwithstanding of the above objection.

He declares that some night last summer, being in company with David Richmond, he saw William Nichol, & Jane Key, at the Tollbar at about ten or eleven o'clock at night that they both went into Buchan's Byre, did not remain (to the best of his recollection) a minute there. That on their coming out of it, Jane Key went into her own house, came out again, that they walked together a little bit of the road towards Hugh McKerrow's yeatt*, parted there, she returning to her own house and -

(This following entry in red should be inserted in page 52 of the minutes, and is in the wrong place on page 68/69.)

Having now in presence of Session been seriously exhorted and rebuked for this their acknowledged irregularity by the Moderator they were by order of the Session absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock the 3^d May 1795

Session met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all other members.

David Welsh, one of their number was unanimously elected Elder to attend Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock the 3^d August 1795

In consequence of a report prevailing in this village that Elizabeth Girvan an inhabitant thereof (mentioned in the minute of 19th December 1790) is again with child, the Session this day appoint two of their number to go to her personally at any time convenient during the course of this week to interrogate her as to the truth of this (she being at the time so indisposed as to be utterly incapable of attending any meeting of Session, and to report her answer to the Session at their next meeting on this day se'en night.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock the 23^d August 1795

This day the Session being met after sermon. Sederunt all the members except David Welsh.

The two members appointed at last sederunt reported that they interrogated Elizabeth Girvan yesterday in her own house as to the fama clamosa concerning her, that she acknowledged the truth of her being at present with child and desired one of them to deliver to the Moderator her letter of acknowledgement and accusation directed to him the tenor whereof follows.

“Revd Sir, I hereby acknowledge to you & to the other members of the Kirk Session of Cumnock that I am at present with child, that Allan Bog weaver in Holmbreck near to this village is the father of this child & that the guilt was committed in the month of February last so far as I at present can recollect. I am Sir your humble servant (signed) Elizabet Girvan Cumnock August 22nd 1795.”

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In consequence of this letter which was produced & read the officer was ordered to cite Allan Boag to compear before this Session upon Thursday the first of September to make answer to the said accusation. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock the September 1st 1795

Session met in the schoolhouse this day & constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb and William Simson Elders.

Allan Bog being called did not compear but there was given in to the Minister by the Kirk Officer a letter from said Allan Bog the tenor of whereof follows.

“Sir, As for this woman that you speak of, Betty Girvan, I know nothing about her nor never did and I think it well serve for no end to say any more about it as I am clear of her. (signed) Allan Boag

The Session understanding that since their former minute relative to this affair, Elizabeth Girvan has deceased and knowing that the fama against the said Allan Boag still continues to prevail, in order to get what light they can into this affair they order him to be cited pro secundo to compear before this Session next Lord’s Day, and the citation of summons to be returned by the officer.

(from now on the entries are in the correct order from page 69)

William Nichol going through McKirrow’s park, and by the old Bridge ford, whence he saw him go home by the Blue Tower of which he is the more positive, as he followed him but he declares that neither then nor at any other time did he see anything unseemly pass between the said two persons. And this is the truth causa scienticae patet. (signed) Charles Crichton.

Compeared Elizabeth Parker wife of Robert Buchan, mason in Cumnock, who being solemnly sworn, and purged of malice and partial council, and interrogated, if she had ever seen at any time any unseemly behaviour betwixt William Nichol and Jane Key declares that one winter evening about ten o’clock and about a year ago she saw the said parties William Nichol and Jane Key meet in the holm at the toll house and, he having entered said home at Hugh McKerrow’s yeart and she at the yeart at the end of the Tollhouse. That they remained together while she continued to observe them which she thinks was about ten minutes, saw nothing unseemly between them, knows not when they parted as she gave over observing them, and is certain that these persons she thus saw were William nichol and Jane Key.

Being further interrogated if at any time or upon any occasion she had seen any thing unseemly between the said two parties declares that she never had, except

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that William Nichol under night, at untimeous hours, was seen by her and others skulking about her byre door and the hedge of the garden she the deponent possesses. Being required at the desire of William Nichol to specify any of the nights abovementioned when he was seen skulking about her byre and garden hedge she depones, that one night she recollects having seen William Nichol on her own garden close by the hedge, that she then spoke to him and asked him, why he did not keep nearer his own doors, upon which he went quickly out of her garden, but did not speak to her. And being further interrogated as to the particular time of the above happening, says she cannot specify the particular time, but recollects that it was on a night, when a horse belonging to Thomas Hamilton, merchant in Cumnock, was put into her byre. And this is the truth causa scienticae patet. Declares she cannot write. Tho Miller.

Compeared Susan Buchan, daughter of Robert Buchan in Cumnock to whom it was objected, that she is now under scandal, having born a child in fornication.

The Session repelled said objection, upon which a protest was taken by Jane Key who took instruments in the Clerk’s hands.

Said Susan Buchan having been solemnly sworn, and purged of malice and partial council and interrogated if ever she saw William Nichol and Jane Key in an unseemly manner together, depones that about a twelve month ago in the winter season in time of frost, and of moonlight, about ten o'clock at night being in her fathers byre, she saw William Nichol come through the Toll, walk down the public road, till near to Hugh Simsons, return back again to the Toll house door, saw Jean Key one of the parties come out of the Tollhouse, and go into the Holm at the end of the said Tollhouse by the yeart there, and William Nichol go down the road the length of Hugh McKirrow's yeart, by which he went into said Holm and met said Jean Key. She saw them together for about ten minutes left them standing together and saw nothing unseemly pass between them. And that is the truth *causa scienticae patet*. (signed) Susan Buchan.

Compeared Elisabeth Anderson daughter of James Anderson, weaver in Cumnock who being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial council, and interrogated if ever she had seen any unseemly behaviour between William Nichol & Jane key depones se has often seem them together in the Tollhouse but never saw any unseemly behaviour between them, and that this is the truth *causa scienticae patet*. Says she cannot write. Tho Miller.

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Compeared William Robison shoemaker in Cumnock to whom it was objected that he is now under scandal.

The Session repelled said objection, upon which, a protest was taken by Jane Key who took instruments in the Clerk's hands.

Said William Robison being solemnly sworn, and purged of malice and partial council, and interrogated if ever he had seen any unseemly behaviour betwixt William and Jane Key, depones that one night in winter was a year about nine at night (so far as he recollects) he saw William Nichol skulking about the Tollhouse door, which raising a suspicion in his mind as to the errand that brought him there, he watched him for some time, saw him pass, and repass the Tollhouse door, heard him jingle something in his pocket, which he supposed to be a sign to Jane Key to come out. He saw her come out, meet William Nichol, converse for a minute or two together, saw them separate, she going into her own house, and he depart from thence, saw nothing unseemly while they were together, declares further that, that he has often seen said William Nichol skulking about the Toll at untimeous hours. That this is the truth *causa scienticae partet*. (signed) William Robertson

The Session delay the farther consideration of this affair until Tuesday first the eighteenth instant when the parties concerned were ordered to attend.

Cumnock 18th February 1800

This evening Session being met this evening and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members in the schoolhouse agreeable to the minute of the 14th of this month.

Compeared James Crawford stockingmaker in Cumnock who being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial council and interrogated if ever he, at any time saw William Nichol and Jane Key alone in any suspicious place, he says he never did and that this is the truth. *Causa scienticae patit*. (signed) James Crawford.

Compeared William McGhee, son of James McGhee weaver in Cumnock, who being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and of partial council, and interrogated if ever he saw William Nichol and Jane Key together at untimeous hours depones that one night about supertime he saw him go into the house of Jane Key and shut the door behind him (when he was standing at the shop door in which he was working) where he stayed some little time saw them come out of the house, go down the public road towards Hugh Simsons house, and afterwards saw him pass to his own house as if coming from the church yeard, farther depones that he has been several times with William Nichol in said house but never saw any thing unseemly pass between them. Causa scienticae patet and this is the truth. (signed) William McKie

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Compeared James Anderson weaver in the village who, being solemnly sworn, and purged of malice an of partial council, and interrogated if ever he saw Agnes Pearson uplift toll from any passengers when the Toll door was shut says he does not recollect such a thing and that Jane Key after a little came out but did not see William Nichol nor any other man at that time come out of said house. He farther adds that he has often seen William Nichol pass and repass to and from said house but never at untimeous hours & never saw any unseemly behaviour between them. Causa scienticae patet and this is the truth. (signed) James Anderson

Compeared David Anderson weaver in Cumnock, who being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and of partial council, and interrogated if ever her saw any improper or indecent behaviour betwixt William Nichol and Jane Key, says he never did. Being further urged depones that one winter night two years ago he recollects to have seen Jane Key go from her own house along Glaisnock Bridge and past John McMillan's door and a little after William Nichol pass the same way from his own house past John McMillan's door, that after a little he saw Jane Key return home by the same way, but did not see William Nichol. That James Moody weaver in this village was with him all this time. Causa scienticae patet. This is the truth. (signed) David Anderson.

Compeared John Goldie weaver in Cumnock who being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and of partial council and interrogated if ever he saw William Nichol and Jane Key together under night says that on a moon light night, about this time three years, he saw said parties together at Mr James Johnston's yeard yeat coming as if from the Toll Bar, that he saw them separate there she putting her hand into her pocket as id she had forgot something, and returning home and he continuing his way towards Mr Taylors, and that the deponents wife also witnessed the same, whose name is Elizabeth Brown. Causa scienticae patet. This is the truth. (signed) John Goldie.

Compeared David Richmond in the village who being solemnly sworn, and purged of malice and partial council and interrogated if he had at any time last summer saw William Nichol and Jane Key, together alone, declares that on a night last summer in the dark of the evening he saw said parties (while he was standing with Charles Crichton a former witness at the corner of Robert Buchans yeard) walking on the public road, he having his arm about her neck, that they walked so far as Hugh McKerrow's yeart where the separated and as he the deponent then went home he saw no more of them. That he heard the

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noise of a door grating on its hinges as he thought but did not see them go into any house.

Being interrogated by William Nichol if he saw where he William Nichol went after they separated at Hugh McKerrow's yeat, declares that she saw them going down the way or public road so far as betwixt the gate and Hugh Simson's but having then gone home did not see more of him. The deponent farther adds that at the time he heard the noise of the door he and Charles Crichton were then ?? within Mr McVitie's park at the west end of Robert Buchan's garden, and is perfectly sure, that the man and woman he then saw as above deponed were William Nichol and Jane Key. Causa scienticae patet and this is the truth. (signed) David Richmont.

Compeared James Mody weaver in Cumnock who, being solemnly sworn, and purged of malice and partial council, and interrogated if ever he, when in company with David Anderson a former witness saw William Nichol and Jane Key pass by John McMillan's door toward the east, she before and he a little after, says he recollects that he did see them thus pass but neither known where they went nor saw either of them return. That he has often when stepping into the Tollhouse seen said parties together there and has been with them there but never saw any unseemly or improper behaviour as to either.

Being interrogated further by William Nichol he recollects where he and David Anderson were at the time they witnessed this, says that they were standing together at the north end of George Patrick's house and that he stayed only a few minutes thereafter. Causa scienticae patet and this is the truth. (signed) James Moodie

Compeared Hugh Clymie shoemaker in Cumnock, who being solemnly sworn, and purged of malice and partial council and interrogated if ever he saw William Nichol and Jane Key together, depones that he once saw them together in William Nichol's closs* on an afternoon but saw nothing unseemly between them, that he recollects a cart of clover being there at the time, and this latter circumstance Jane Key desires may be attended to a she is willing to prove that her husband had frequent occasion to purchase clover from William Nichol.

He farther depones that on the night immediately before the fast previous to the last Dispensing of the Communion here, being with others in the house of Hugh Thomson, William Robison a former witness, came and informed them that he has seen William Nichol at the Tollhouse window, adding that

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he supposed that he had gone into Robert Buchan's byre upon which George Drummond and George Brown, two of the company, went into said byre, and examined it, but found no man there, and upon George Brown's blaming William Robison for bringing them a false report, said William Robison told them that if they would stand a minute or two, they would soon see said William Nichol come past Mr MVitie's house and also go past them seemingly on his way home in a little after that. Causa scienticae patet and this is the truth. (signed) Hugh Climie.

**closs – close or alley*

Compeared Hugh Crawford weaver in Cumnock who being solemnly sworn, and purged of malice and partial council, and interrogated if ever he saw William Nichol and Jane Key together alone in any place, depones, he never did see them together alone but says he one about ten o'clock at night saw William Nichol come past them at the door, formerly possessed by John Sloss, now by John Thomson, that the deponent followed him and passed him, viz William Nichol standing at Robert

Buchan's byre door with his face towards the door, that he saw no more of him. Causa scienticae patet and this is the truth. (signed) Hugh Crawford

Compeared John Russel at the Toll, who being solemnly sworn, and purged of malice and partial council, and interrogated if ever he saw any unseemly behaviour between William Nichol and Jane Key, declares he never did see any such thing, that he and his wife lived for a twelve month but and ben with Samuel Mitchel and Jane Key, and never saw or knew any suspicious behaviour between said Jane Key and said William Nichol. Causa scienticae patet and this sis the truth. (signed) John Russal.

Compeared William McCartney taylor in Cumnock who being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial council and interrogated if ever he saw any thing improper passing between William Nichol and Jane Key depones he never did. Causa scienticae patet and this is the truth. (signed) William McCartney.

Compeared James key, carter in the village who being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial council and interrogated if eve he saw William Nichol and Janet Key in any indecent or unseemly posture declares he never did, adding that he scarcely ever saw them in one another's company at all. Causa scienticae patet and this is the truth. (signed) James Key.

The Session delay the farther consideration of this affair.

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The parties present were asked if the wished any exculpatory evidence to be adduced, thy declared they did not considering it as altogether unnecessary.

The Session delay the farther consideration of this affair till Friday the fourteenth of March next when they shall intimate to the parties present their determination as to the whole affair.

Cumnock 14th March 1800

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members except Alexander Calder who is necessarily absent.

Previous to their entering upon the consideration of the affair betwixt William Nichol and Jane Key parties were called in and asked if they had any exculpatory proof to bring before the Session. Upon which William Nichol craved that the Session or any member thereof would view whether it is possible for any person or persons to be seen coming across the north end of Mr McVitie's house from the spot of ground where Hugh Clymie stood, that is to say two or three yards from the Toll bar on the south side thereof and farther craved that they also sight whether it is possible to see from the west end of Buchan's years a person of person either going into or coming out of Buchan's byre.

The Session grant the above requisition and therefore resolve that before they proceed to the determination of this cause they or some of them will sight the above places and adjourn to Monday the seventeenth day of this current month in the forenoon of that day. Tho Miller.

Cumnock 17th March 1800

This Session being met this and constituted in the Kirk. Sederunt the Moderator and most of the other members.

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David Welsh and William Simson two of the members of Session reported that in compliance to the requisition of William Nichol made in the preceeding minute they on Saturday forenoon last went to the Toll to view whether it is possible for any person or persons to be seen coming past Mr McVitie's house from the spot of ground where Hugh Clymie stood and whether it is also possible for any to see from the west end of Buchan's yeard a person or persons coming out of or going into Buchan's byre. That they were met there by said William Nichol & by Samuel Mitchell and by Jane Key his wife where they were met with such treatment as cursing, swearing and insolent language that they were obliged to desist their intention notwithstanding of their having gone there merely out of compliance to their earnest requisition as above minuted.

John Gibb another member of Session and the said William Simson farther report that at the particular request of Hugh Clymie one of the witnesses, the truth of whose declaration William Nichol calls in question, they went with him to the toll bar stood on the place which he the said Hugh Clymie there pointed out to them as the very spot of ground on which he stood when he saw said William Nichol go past Mr McVitie's house and that they stood on said place while said Hugh Clymie walked the ground where he said on Oath he saw William Nichol walk, and that they both saw said Hugh Clymie while he thus walked till he got to the very entry from the public road into Mr McVitie's park.

Thereafter the session entered upon the consideration of the whole affair of said William Nichol and Jane Key and having read over the preceding minute are of opinion that after the Sessional exhortation given sometime ago to the said parties to avoid being in company together at untimous hours (which the Session considered and still consider as the circumstance from which the fama may have arisen) as notwithstanding this it appears from the proof taken in this affair that they have been seen on different occasions together under night and even at a late hour of night since said exhortation was given them they are chargeable

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with such conduct as renders it improper (till they give evidence of a more Christian conduct) for either of them to receive church privileges or a testimonial should they apply for the same.

Parties being called in the above sentence was intimated to them whereupon said parties appealed to the presbytery, craved extracts and took instruments in the Clerk's hands. The Session appoint said extracts accordingly. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 23rd March 1800

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

Compeared Jane McCrae daughter of James McCrae in Muirdyke acknowledged that she lately brought forth a child in fornication and having been seriously exhorted to be ingenious in her declaration as to the father declared that John Train, son of the late James Train and Elizabeth Murdoch in this village and now a soldier in the Twenty Third Regiment of Dragoons lying in Jacland is the father of the child, that the guilt was committed in June last, that he has been repeatedly wrote to concerning her situation but that as yet she has received no answer. Declares she cannot write and authorises the Moderator to sign this for her. Tho Miller.

The Session delay the farther consideration of this affair till some future opportunity, meantime the minister is authorised to baptise her child upon her father or mother being sponsor.

Cumnock 30th April 1800

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all members.

At the desire of Janet Gemmel mentioned in the minute of the sixth of February last, the Session met this evening in the schoolhouse. Compeared the said Janet Gemmel and offered to corroborate by the Testimony of John Wylie merchant in this village and Jane Findlay wife of James Key Cooper in Cumnock both formerly mention certain facts respecting the accusation she formerly laid before the Session against William Robison being the father for her child but as the said Robison although informed

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of this meeting was not present the Session did not consider themselves authorised to enter upon the examination of said witnesses. Tho Miller.

(There is no further information in relation to this case in the Session record, but on 6th May 1801 Janet Gemmel of Old Cumnock was rebuked at Ayr Presbytery and sent back to Cumnock for them to take her under discipline.)

Cumnock 14th August 1800

This evening Session being met and constituted in the schoolroom. Sederunt the Moderator and other members.

The officer reported that according to the order of Session he had duly cited Jean Kennedy & William White both in this village to compear before this meeting of Session. Said parties did not appear but the following letters from said parties were read and ordered to be engrossed in this minute.

“Sir, I have no person to give the child I am with but to William White, I do not choose to apper before the Session at present and you can lay this before them in your own stile. I am your most obedient, (signed)Jean Kennedy

Cumnock 8th August 1800”

“To W Simson, Session Clerk

Revd Sir, I received a summons to appear before you and Session tomorrow's night on an accusation against me by Jean Kennedy. I acknowledge that her accusation is just, but as I am to be out of town tomorrow night on particular business. I hope that this confession will answer for my appearing personally. I am Revd Sir, your most obedient servant. (signed) William White

Cumnock 14th August 1800”

The Session delay the father consideration of this affair betwixt the said Jean Kennedy wife of Thomas Murray shoemaker and the said William White till some future opportunity.

Cumnock 2nd November 1800

This day Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

Alexander Calder one of their number was unanimously elected Elder to attend Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year.

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and other members.

(the following entry appears to have been entered into the wrong page of the Kirk Session Volumes, as it is dated after the entries on the page overleaf. It is repeated on page 80.)

Cumnock 3rd March 1801

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator together with John Gibb and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared at the request of the Revd William Reid, Minister of New Cumnock, Daivid Smith and Mary Houston...

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Cumnock 10th December 1800

The Kirk Session of Cumnock being this day met and constituted, sederunt the Minister and all the Elders.

It was intimated to them at a metting held at Cumnock o Thursday the fourth current for taking into consideration the state of the poor in this time of scarcity and for divising the means most proper for regularly supplying the Mercat of Cumnock with meal for the accommodation of poor housekeeper in said village and parish. The heretors and Sunday tenants of this parish then present had agreed to furnish three hundred and forty bolls* of meal at the rate of eight or ten bolls a week which they were informed was fully sufficient to answer the probable demand of the poor housekeepers of this parish till harvest next and had subscribed a paper obliging themselves to furnish said supply weekly in their several turns to be settled by lot.

**boll – an imperial measurement of grain, equivalent to about 6 bushells.*

The Kirk Session highly approving of said measure for the regularly supplying the poor housekeepers and poor with meal and being well informed of the very straitened circumstances of many families

especially where their children are numerous throughout the parish agreed unanimously to represent as they hereby authorise their Minister to represent in their name to the Heritors that the known circumstances of such families would render advisable that their meal should be supplied to them weekly at a rate below mercat not exceeding ninepence per peck.

That the Kirk Session for the farther accommodation of the poor being persuaded that the tenantry and others who furnish the meal cannot be heartily desirous to contribute their share in lessening the price of the meal furnished by them for the use of poor housekeepers order their minister farther to represent to the Heritors and Tenantry when met tomorrow which the Session is informed it is proposed they should do the necessity of making a collection among the Heritors, Tenantry and other well disposed persons throughout the parish a sum not exceeding (blank space) pounds Sterling which sum added to that abovementioned proposed to be advanced out of the funds belonging to the poor of this parish would enable the person or persons entrusted with the above specified quantity of meal to furnish it all to the most necessitous & destitute housekeepers of the parish at the reduced price of ninepence per peck below the mercat price provided the same shall not fall below (blank space) per peck. Which measure the Session authorise the Minister to inform the meeting of Heritors, Tenantry and other inhabitants tomorrow on the well grounded persuasion that, if followed out, the measure will greatly contribute to the ease and comfort of the families of so many necessitous housekeepers throughout this parish.

Cumnock 3rd March 1801

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator together with John Gibb and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared at the request of the Revd William Reid, Minister of New Cumnock, David Smith and Mary Houston present or late servants in Bank of said parish acknowledged themselves to have been guilty of the sin of antenuptial fornication, were rebuked for the same, absolved from the scandal they are at present under and the clerk ordered to give an abstract of this minute to the said parties when asked.

Cumnock 27th March 1801

This evening Session being met in the manse and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and William Simson and John Gibb, Elders.

Compeared Margaret Morton servant to the Revd Dr Miller, minister here acknowledged herself with child and being solemnly exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration as to the father declared that John Watson journeyman taylor with William Gemmel is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed at (blank space) and that he acknowledged the charge and in proof of this produced a letter to the Session from said John Watson the tenor whereof follows

“To the Session of Cumnock, As I have given you through my account the present trouble with the bearer I hope you will not give yourself any more with regard to further examination as I here own to be the father of the child and am willing to give satisfaction to the church and as we expect to be married I hope you will be favourable.

I am gentlemen, your humble servant, (signed) John Watson”

The session delay for a few days the farther consideration of this affair.

Cumnock 20th April 1801

This Session being this day met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator together with John Gibb and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously John Watson and Margaret Morton who have since last meeting of Session been regularly married, acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication, were rebuked for the same, absolved from the scandal of said sin and the Clerk ordered to give them an extract of this minute to said parties when asked. Tho Miller

Cumnock 24th May 1801

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members of Session.

David Welsh in Bankend one of their number was unanimously elected Elder to attend presbytery and synod for the next half year. Thomas Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock 8th November 1801

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb, Alexander Calder and William Simson, Elders.

William Simson one of their number was unanimously elected Elder to attend presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 30th November 1801

This evening Session being met in the house of John Gibb in Cumnock. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Marion McMichael, daughter of John McMichael ??farmersman in Dumfries House acknowledged herself with child and having been seriously exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration as to who is the father declares that George Vallance in Auchinway , servant to William Crichton is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed in the month of May last in the house of Whitehill where she had gone to visit. Being interrogated whether she had ever informed the young man of this her situation says she never did. She declares that this is the truth. Declares she cannot write. Tho Miller.

She was cited apud acta to compear before the Session next Lord's Day, and the Officer is ordered to cite said George Vallance also to compear said day before the Session. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 6th December 1801

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

Compeared in consequence of citation Marion McMichael and George Vallance mentioned in last minute. She adhered to her former declaration made before the Session last sederunt.

The said George Vallance upon her declaration being read over in his hearing acknowledged the truth of her charge and that he was guilty with her at the time she mentions. (signed) George Vallance

The parties were seriously exhorted and dismissed for the present. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 28th March 1802

This day Session being met and constituted after sermon. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller and all the other members.

The officer reported that he had duly cited Jean Kennedy and William White to compear before this meeting of Session.

Jean Kennedy did not compear but the Moderator produced to the Session the following letter directed to them the tenor whereof follows

“Cumnock 27th March 1802. This is to acquaint you that I am not able on account of ill health to attend the Session, but I have no other person to give the child to but William White (signed) Jean Kennedy”

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Compeared in consequence of citation William White and Jean Kennedy's letter of accusation being read over in his hearing and being interrogated whether he acknowledged the charge made answer that he cannot deny the charge, was rebuked and this being a relapse as to Jean Kennedy who is a married woman and he having formerly been accused by Anna Lennox as the father of a child born by her in fornication and the said accusation having been found good by the judgement of the Civil Magistrate, the Session render him as guilty of a relapse, and he is therefore summoned apud acta to compear before the Presbytery of Ayr at Ayr on Wednesday the thirty first day of this current month.* Tho Miller Moderator.

**The minutes for Ayr Presbytery for 31st March 1802 show that William White was rebuked for adultery and sent back to Cumnock Session for further action. (On the same day, Jean Weir appeared before the Presbytery and was rebuked for a relapse into fornication, and also sent back to Old Cumnock.)*

Cumnock 30th April 1802

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and other members except Alexander Calder necessarily absent.

William Simson one of their number was reelected Elder to attend Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year. Tho Miller, Minister

Cumnock 9th May 1802

Session being met and constituted after sermon. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

The officer reported that he duly cited William White stocking maker and Jean Kennedy spouse to Thomas Murray to compear before this meeting of Session.

The compeared accordingly. He adhered to the declaration he had formerly made of guilt with the said Jean Kennedy and she now for the first time (having never formerly attended any meeting of Session) judicially acknowledged that she had born two children in adultery to the said William White.

They were upon their declaration suitably rebuked and exhorted. It was recommended to them to avoid the society of one another in future and they were informed that upon the Session's receiving intimation of their doing so they would be taken upon public profession of their repentance. Tho Miller, moderator.

Cumnock 18th June 1802

This evening the Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared in consequence of citation, Jean Key daughter of Jean Key in the village acknowledged that she is with child and having been solemnly exhorted by the minister to be ingenuous in her declaration as to who is the father of her child declared that Daniel Johnston (grandson of Mr Johnston – *this has been scored through*), late in this village now resident in **??Dumarara (Demarara?)** is the father of her child. That the guilt was committed in the fields

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betwixt this and Langhouse about three days before Hallowday last old style, and that she had been three different times in the Star Inn in the house of Ebenezer Boyle, in his company and that in two of these instances they had criminal conversation together, and that she never informed him of her situation he having soon after left the country. And that this is the truth and declares that she cannot write. Tho Miller.

The Session considering that this is a trilapse as to the said J Key (she having been suitably exhorted) delayed the further consideration of this affair till reported to the Presbytery. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 8th September 1802

This day Session being met in the schoolroom and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Jean McLelland daughter of James McLelland in this village and at this time servant to Thomas Hamilton Junior, merchant in Cumnock, acknowledged herself with child and having been solemnly exhorted by the Moderator to be ingenuous in her declaration as to the father and interrogated declared that Mr Robert Young, surgeon, son of Mr Young in Broomfield in

the parish of Auchinleck is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed at Broomfield in the month of March last about the ?race week of Cumnock, that is some day after the eleventh of March last, & that she repeatedly informed the said Mr Robert Young of her situation, and this is the truth. (signed) Jean McLeand Tho Miller, Moderator.

She was suitably exhorted and dismissed. The Session taking into consideration that this guilt was committed in the parish of Auchinleck where both parties resided at the time, ordered their Clerk to send an extract of the above accusation to the Session of Auchinleck that they may duly inquire into the same.* Tho Miller, Moderator.

**There are no Auchinleck Kirk Sessions currently on-line*

Cumnock 10th October 1802

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb, Alexander Calder and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Agnes Dickie daughter of John Dickie, shoemaker in this parish, acknowledged that she about a year ago brought forth a child in fornication, that the father is James Patrick a shoemaker then residing in this parish, that the child was dead born, and that she has made oath before the Civil Court that the said James Patrick was the father of said child of which she was delivered. She craved to be taken upon discipline which the Session agree to do as soon as convenient. Tho Miller, moderator.

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Cumnock 18th December 1802

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members except David Welsh necessarily absent.

Compeared spontaneously Jean McKerrow, daughter of James McKerrow late in Changue, acknowledged herself with child, and having been seriously exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration as to the father declared that William Dick in parish of Coylton is the father of the child, that the guilt was committed at Barlanochan where she then was and still is serving and that he the said William Dick was also residing at Barlanochan at the time the guilt was committed which was about the beginning of July last, that she informed him of this her situation on Martinmas day last on the farm of Bent in Parish of Ochiltree where she understands he is now residing. And this is the truth, declares she cannot write. Tho Miller for Jean McKerrow.

She was suitably exhorted and dismissed pro tempore.

Cumnock 9th January 1803

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb, Alexander Calder and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared in consequence of citation Jean McKerrow and William Dick mentioned in last minute. She declared her adherence to her former accusation of said William Dick.

After being solemnly exhorted to tell the truth he declared that there was no ground for said accusation, and that he never had any carnal dealings with said Jean McKerrow.

She was questioned if she could mention any circumstances which might tend to throw light on the affair and said that their first intercourse was in the stable at Barlanochan and that thereafter they had repeated intercourse in her own bed. All which particulars he being questioned upon sternly denied.

She reminded him that when she went to Bent in parish of Ochiltree and informed him of her situation he said he would not take any advantage of her but if she would declare upon Oath before any Justice of the Peace that the child is his he would acknowledge himself the father of the her child.

The Session taking this matter into consideration, and being of opinion that the conversation above recited betwixt him and her in Bent affords a strong presumption of the truth of her accusation authorise their Clerk to give her an extract of this minute to be laid before a Civil Court if (she) shall require the same. Tho. Millar, Minister.

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Cumnock 24th July 1803

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb, David Walsh and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously John Kennedy, stockingmaker in Cumnock and Jean McCrae spouses and acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication, expressing their sorrow for this offence.

They were rebuked for this irregularity by the Moderator and absolved by order of the Session from the scandal thereof, and dismissed.

Cumnock 5th August 1803

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and other members of Session now remaining.

The Moderator presented to the Session a petition from Alexander Calder of which the tenor follows.

“To the Rvd the Moderator and Members of the Session of Cumnock, the petition of Alexander Calder, wood forester at Dumfries House, humbly sheweth that as his earnest desire is that the several allegations contained in a representation given in to the Kirk Session concerning him some time ago may be judicially enquired into and witnesses examined thereon by the Session.

May it therefore please said Session to take this petition into consideration and grant as above required with their earliest convenience (signed) Alexander Calder”

The Session unanimously agreed agreeable to the prayer of said petition to grant this requisition of Alexander Calder and therefore appoint on Tuesday the twelfth current a meeting of the Session to be held here by twelve o'clock at noon to enter upon the consideration of Alexander Calders affair

and order their officer to give intimation of this to the persons concerned in order that such witnesses may then attend as shall by them be thought needful. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 12th August 1803

Sederun the Session of Cumnock after prayers, present the Moderator and John Gibb, David Welsh and William Simson, Elders.

The Session having met according to the appointment of their last sederunt for taking into consideration the affair of Alexander Calder one of their number, the said Alexander Calder was called before them.

He appeared accordingly & along with him Mr David McWhinnie, writer in Air. Alexander Calder's petition being read, he now states to the Revd Session that as the matters alleged against him in the representation referred to them by James Rankin and others seem to relate to matters of civil right between the parties therein mentioned and him some of which have been already sub judicie of the judge ordinary

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of the County and others either presently are or immediately will be brought under discussion before a competent court. He therefore craves the Revd Session to delay farther proceeding in this case for the present untill these matters are finally discussed before the civil court, reserving the right to both parties to take this matter under their ??pitine consideration in so far as character is concerned.

The Session unanimously agree to the requisition now made by Alexander Calder, and for the reasons above mentioned delay entering into the consideration of this affair till a future opportunity.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 7th September 1803

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and other members of Session.

Compeared in consequence of citation Mary Latta, daughter of John Latta carrier in Bridgend, acknowledged herself with child, and having been solemnly exhorted to tell the truth, and interrogated who is the father declared that William McCowan, son of John McCowan carrier in Caponacre is the father of her child, and that the guilt was committed in the house of ?? Mirrie, Innkeeper in Cumnock on the day of Cumnock May Fair last, and says that she informed him of this her situation upon Thursday the 25th August last in the house of William Latta her brother in Kilmarnock.

Being further interrogated acknowledged that she had also been guilty with him the Friday was eight days before said Fair when she was guilty with him, but that she had no criminal intercourse with

him at any other time that these two times abovementioned and this is the truth. (signed) Mary Latta, Tho Miller.

She was suitably exhorted and cited apud acta to attend next meeting of Session upon Sabbath the eighteenth of this current month, to which meeting the officer is ordered to cite said William McCowan to attend. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 18th September 1803

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb, David Welsh and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared Mary Latta & William McCowan mentioned in last minute. Mary Latta being interrogated if she still adhered to her declaration emitted in last minute says she still adheres to said declaration.

William McCowan being interrogated as to the truth of said declaration positively denied the charge, declares that he never had any criminal correspondence with the said Mary Latta.

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Mary Latta was asked if she had any evidence to produce in corroboration of her charge, says she has none.

William McCowan admits the truth of having been in company with her both on the Fair day mentioned in last minute and also on the Friday eight days before that fair, but solemnly denies his having had any criminal correspondence with her then or at any time whatever.

The Session delay for the time the farther consideration of this affair till providence may throw some light on the business. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 29th September 1803

This day Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Agnes Key, daughter of Jean Key in this village acknowledged that she brought forth a child in uncleanness on the fourteenth day of March last and having been seriously exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration declared that John Muir, son of John Muir, farmer in Langmuir of this parish is the father of her child. That the guilt was committed on the Cumnock May Fair eighteen hundred & two years & that she repeatedly wrote said John Muir of this her/ After having been seriously exhorted she was summoned apud acta to compear before this Session next Lord's Day against which meeting the officer is ordered to summon said John Muir to compear. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 2nd October 1803

Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb, David Welsh and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared Agnes Key and John Muir mentioned in last minute. Agnes Key declared her adherence to her declaration emitted before the Session at their last meeting.

John Muir having been seriously exhorted and interrogated whether he acknowledged the truth of said accusation, said that he acknowledges having had criminal correspondence with said Agnes Key, not at the time she has mentioned but about twelve months prior to said time.

The Session found by the acknowledgement of both parties that they are both under the scandal of fornication. They were suitably exhorted and dismissed. Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock 24th October 1803

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb, David Welsh and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared Alexander Calder, late one of their number and required extracts to be given him of all that had been done hitherto in his affair.

The Session inform'd him that a requisition had been made by Mr David McWhinnie his agent to the same effect by letter dated the 6th current and that the same latter had been duly answered, informing him nothing had hitherto been minuted in their records respecting that affair that appeared to them of the smallest consequence.

That as to any other papers which had been occasionally taken down, although not in their minutes tho' these appeared to them altogether ??extrapedicial yet they might be sent him upon his requisition.

The Session taking this affair into consideration being in the knowledge of the Fama which for some time past has prevailed to the prejudice of the said Alexander Calder considering that the same is not yet removed, being desirous that everything to the prejudice of the character of said Alexander Calder may be removed for clearing up and doing away the foresaid Fama, and seeing grounds for now entering into the consideration of the same resolve to appoint a meeting of Session for that special purpose at which all persons concern'd shall have due intimation to attend.

Mean time they order their Clerk to transmit a copy of this their resolve to said Alexander Calder, that he may have timeous knowledge of the same. Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock 14th November 1803

This day Session being met and constitute. Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb, William Simson and David Welsh, Elders.

The Session having fixed upon this day to enter upon the consideration of the affair of Alexander Calder agreeable to their resolution at their meeting of the 24th of October last. Their Officer was

called in and being asked if he had given due and regular intimation to the said Alexander Calder and other persons concerned of this day's meeting reported that he had given legal intimation of said meeting to Alexander Calder, James Kirkland, merchant in Cumnock, George Drummond, wright there & Hugh McKerrow , wright there, and had also given summons to Thomas Campbell, merchant in New Cumnock and James McKerrow , farrier in Boreland of this parish whose testimony as to their knowledge of the affair was required by both parties.

The Session resolved, in order to their future procedure in this affair first to read the petition given in to them in the month of March last which they had not heretofore entered upon the judicial consideration of and therefore ordered Alexander Calder to be called previous to their reading the same.

Compeared accordingly the said Alexander Calder and alongst with him Mr John Hamilton, writer in Mauchline as his procurator, in whose hearing the papers following were read.

"Cumnock 11th March 1803.

To the Revd the Moderator and the other Members of the Session of Cumnock.

Gentlemen,

We subscribers and others who are members of this Congregation have heard with much concern various reports concerning Mr Alexander Calder, one of your number and we are humbly of opinion it will be satisfactory to the Congregation in general (and if found groundless to Mr Calder in particular) if you would be pleased to examine his conduct in requiring payment from George Drummond of a sum of money which the said George Drummond says he never was owing him.

Also in his endeavouring to take a piece of ground possessed by James Kirkland which claim the Civil law has refused to confirm his having any right to it.

Likewise his having a very disagreeable transaction with Hugh McKerrow, wright in Cumnock which he willing particularly to relate if called upon and which also may be corroborated by James McKerrow in Borland. All which reports we are

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exceedingly sorry should have been imputed* to any of your number, and we are humbly of opinion and earnestly desire for the honour of religion and the credit of the society we belong to that you would suspend him from the office of an Elder if such things as are abovementioned is found true.

May it therefore please you the Moderator and the other Members of the Session of Cumnock to convene the said Mr Alexander Calder before you as soon as you think proper to take into your serious consideration these his proceedings in so far as the scandal inseperately connected therewith is concerned, in order that he may have an opportunity of justifying to you and all concerned these his proceedings is earnestly requested by gentlemen.

Your most humble servants.

(signed by)

James Rankind

Alexander McGlashan

Hugh McKerrow

William Borland

James Kirkland

Adam Connel

William Nichol

David Anderson

Hugh Pearson

William McMillan

James Leitch

William Crichton.”

**imputed – attributed or represented by*

“Cumnock 16th March 1803

To the Moderator and other Members of the Session of Cumnock.

Sir, Having seen a petition signed by James Kirkland, Adam Connel and others requiring you as Moderator and the other member of the Session of Cumnock to enquire into the various reports against me therementioned,

First as to my requiring payment from George Drummond of a sum of money which he says he never was owing me.

Secondly, as to my endeavouring to take a piece of ground possessed by James Kirkland which the Civil law had refused to confirm.

Thirdly, of my having a very disagreeable dispute with Hugh McKerrow wright in Cumnock which he is willing particularly to relate if called upon.

I have no objection you make an enquiry into the above particulars, nay I request the favour you will do so that any calumnations* be prosecuted in their turn for defamation.

This is the first instance it is believed of a petitioner’s coming forward to constitute a Kirk Session the judges of Civil Matters.

As to the first ground, I paid George Drummond the cash upon the seventeenth day of April eighteen hundred & two and got delivery from him of John Patrick’s accepted bill, herewith shown you drawn by Alexander Patrick which he Drummond delivered to me as surety for

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for the cash by indorsation upon the 10th March eighteen hundred and three. Drummond acknowledged that he did so before William Watson, wright, Barskimming, and Robert Allan, tanner,

Cumnock, but as I find upon advice that the indorsation is irregular and the bill itself perscribed** I demand back my money from Drummond than which surety nothing can be more reasonable & just.

With respect to my second case, Mr Kirkland was summoned by my desire by Adam Crichton merely as I had misunderstood the order of Mr Robert Robertson, writer in Air who desired me to summon all the tenants of George Patricks subject but he says he did not mean the tenant of any excepted ground formerly subset by Patrick to one Thomas Hamilton, for evidence of this I refer you to Mr Robertson and to the process against Patrick and tenants in his wherein Mr Robertson never so much as put Kirkland's name into that libell which is of Mr Robertsons own handwriting. But Kirkland employed procurat* to appear for him in the copy given him by the officer.

With regard to the third ground it is general and nothing expressly meant by Hugh McKerrow consequently I can give it no answer only the Moderator and Kirk Session will observe that the petition is signed by Hugh McKerrow who if he has any claim against me I must answer it in the proper court, but it was never before heard that a person sewed* at law his name & property could be by a Kirk Session as objectionable to his remaining in office as an Elder. The thing is too ridiculous for a serious answer from me.

I am your servant.

(signed) Alexander Calder”

**calumniation – the uttering of false statements or charges.*

***perscribed – probably “proscribed”, or illegal/forbidden in law.*

****sewed – sued*

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“To the Reverend the Moderator and remnants members of the Session of Cumnock. The Petition of Alexander Calder, wood forrester at Dumfries House humbly sheweth

That as his earnest desire is that the several allegations contained in a representation given in to the Kirk Session concerning him some time ago may be judicially enquired into and witnesses examined thereon by the Session.

May it therefore please said Session to take this petition into their consideration & grant as above required with their earliest conveniency.

(signed) Alexander Calder”

The above papers being read the Session agreed to take the declarations of the persons following – viz

James Kirkland

George Drummond

Hugh McKerrow

Thomas Campbell

Whereupon previous to their doing the same Mr John Hamilton, procurator for Alexander Calder represented that he humbly conceived that the Session could not enter into the examination of the persons abovementioned, or otherwise to investigate into the grounds of the Fama stated in said representation, and that till it was established in the proper constitutional court whether or not all or any of the crimes laid to his charge were founded upon facts, he must be holden and respected of good character, and entitled to claim the same privileges as if no such fama had been circulated. That the whole charges in said representation are altogether false, and being the sentiments only of a party who have conceived a groundless malice against the said Alexander Calder uncorroborated

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the same ought not to be listened to by the Kirk Session and therefore ?? form of instrument required the Moderator and other members of the Kirk Session of Cumnock to produce to the said Alexander Calder ample certificates of his character while a member of said Session.

The Session took the above requisition into their consideration.

They were of opinion that it cannot be granted upon the grounds and for the reasons following.

First, that said Alexander Calder had by petition craved the Session to take this affair into their consideration, and had repeatedly applied to different individuals of the Session that the same might be enquired into.

Secondly, that the Session are wholly ignorant whether the fama is or is not grounded upon malice and falsehood and must be ignorant as to this till the matter be enquired into as they are now proceeding to do.

Thirdly, the session is clearly of opinion that the matter is cognizable by them and therefore that the requisition as to character cannot be granted till the witnesses now summoned are legally examined.

Lastly, the Session must observe that it is known to Alexander Calder himself that he voluntarily demitted* the office of Elder ay* and until the Session should take this affair into their consideration, and therefore they apprehend they are bound in justice to him and to his character as one of their number without further delay to enter fully into his affair which they now resolve to do.

Whereupon the said Alexander Calder objected to the competency of the Session in admitting the foresaid proof and protested against their proceeding accordingly and that they should be liable for

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for all damages he might sustain in consequences of their refusal of the foresaid certificate and for expences as accords and thereupon took instruments in the hands of the said Mr John Hamilton as Notary Public.

**ay – until*

The Session in consideration that the allegations against Alexander Calder are represented on his part as founded upon malice resolved to examine the several witnesses which may appear before them in this affair upon oath.

Compeared James Kirkland merchant in Cumnock and being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial council depones that he received summons of removal at the instance of Alexander Calder from a piece of ground consisting of six falls or thereby which formerly belonged to George Patrick weaver in Cumnock, that in consequence of said summons he was obliged to appear before the Sheriff Court of Air and there establish his right to said piece of ground which he did by showing that he had purchased the tack* of said piece of ground a few years ago from Thomas Hamilton, wright in Cumnock which he the said Thomas Hamilton had purchased from the said George Patrick in April seventeen hundred and eighty three.

Depones that he has good reason to believe that Alexander Calder was in the knowledge of the said piece of ground being the property of the deponent at the time said summons was put into his the deponents hands, that notwithstanding of this his knowledge he the said Alexander Calder never made any enquiry at him the deponent whether said piece of ground was his property which he the deponent conceives he ought to have done. And that in consequence of this he had been obliged at a certain expence to put the business into the hands of a writer for the defence of this his property. Depones farther that his ground of believing that Alexander Calder was in the knowledge of said piece of ground being his property was that Mr William Swan, factor** at Dumfries House assured him that he the said William Swan

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had informed the said Alexander Calder that the said piece of ground belonged to and was the property of said James Kirkland and that therefore he should reserve it out of the Scroll of the Assignation of the tack originally granted to George Patrick of the whole property & which Mr Swan actually did reserve out of said Scroll and this is the truth.

(Signed) James Kirkland, Tho Miller

**tack – a lease/tenancy or the document detailing a lease or tenancy.````*

***factor – estate manager`*

Compeared Thomas Campbell, merchant in New Cumnock and being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial council depones that in the house of George Patrick, weaver in Cumnock at the time when he the deponent received a sum of money due to him by said George Patrick and for which he had security upon said Patrick's houses &c. He saw George Drummond receive money so far as he can now recollect, said to be payment of a bill which the said George Drummond had in his custody. Depones that both parties viz George Drummond and Alexander Calder seemed satisfied (although he the deponent was at the time ignorant of the consideration for which said money was paid or received) and he the deponent was told that the said sum of money was given to George Drummond for a bill he had of Alexander Patrick, which bill he was informed was for behoof of Alexander Patrick from his father John Patrick and this is the truth.

(signed) Thomas Campbell, Tho Miller

Compeared George Drummond wright in Cumnock who being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial council depones that at the same time and in the same place when & where the preceeding witness Thomas Campbell received his money he the deponent received from the hands of James McKerrow in Borland of this parish the sum of eleven pounds sterling as the payment of a bill which he the deponent had received from Alexander Patrick and which his brother George Patrick had agreed to pay. Depones further that he considered the said eleven pounds as part of the payment of the houses &c purchased by Alexander Calder from said George Patrick, that his reason for thinking so

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is that he saw Alexander Calder count said money and deliver it to said James McKerrow out of whose hands he the deponent received it and that the bill itself which the deponent then tabled and which was taken up at the time by said Alexander Calder shows that it was payable by the said George Patrick as heir to his father the acceptor John Patrick.

Depones that at no other time did he receive any money for any one's behoof or for his own behoof from said Alexander Calder and particularly that he did not receive from him the said Alexander Calder charged him in a letter dated the 24th day of February eighteen hundred & three.

Depones that notwithstanding this he has been repeatedly applied to by said Alexander Calder for payment of money which he says he delivered to him the deponent. And this is the truth.

(signed) George Drummond, Tho Miller

The Session agree to adjourn the farther consideration of this affair till Thursday first the seventeenth current to which meeting they order their officer to summon James McKerrow in Borland and John McKerrow merchant in Cumnock, son of said James McKerrow, and Hugh McKerrow who was summoned to this meeting was at same time summed apud acta to appear at said meeting of Session.

Cumnock 17th November 1803

Met in consequence of adjournment the Session of Cumnock. Present the Moderator, John Gibb, Elder, William Simson, Elder, David Wilson, Elder.

The Officer reported that he had duly summoned James McKerrow in Borland and John McKerrow merchant in Cumnock his son to attend this meeting and to give their evidence in the affair of Alexander Calder.

The Session proceeded to examine the evidence thereupon.

Compeared Hugh McKerrow, wright in Cumnock who being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial council depones that the month

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of March seventeen hundred & ninety four (to the best of his recollection) he the deponent with his brother James McKerrow now in Borland but then tenant in Tareoch in parish of Auchinleck met with Alexander Calder by agreement in the house of John Gibb in this village.

Depones that the purpose of their meeting was to receive from the said Alexander Calder the sum of thirty three pounds twelve shillings and six pence sterling being money stock and interest belonging to John Barrie, a minor, and nephew to James McKerrow and the deponent for whom they acted, which money had been for some time in the hands of said Alexander Calder.

Depones that instead of receiving the from the said Alexander Calder at the time mentioned the above sum of thirty three pounds twelve shillings and six pence sterling due to the miner for whom they acted he then laid down upon the table only twenty three pounds thirteen shillings sterling and said he would lay down no more money that day.

Depones that he has frequently demanded from the said Alexander Calder since that time the said balance of twelve pounds nineteen shillings and six pence sterling which he the deponent accounted for and paid to the said minor John Barry but never has received from the said Alexander Calder that balance or any part of it.

Depones that at the above meeting he and his brother James McKerrow signed a stamped discharge written by the said Alexander Calder for the full sum of thirty three pounds twelve shillings and six pence sterling and including also one pound ten shillings sterling of interest formerly paid by said Alexander Calder for behoof of the said minor.

Depones that the said discharge signed by them lying on the table, he the said Alexander Calder took up and put into his pocket although it contained nine pounds nineteen shillings and sixpence more than he actually paid them at the time. And this is the truth. (signed) Hugh McKerrow, Tho Miller

Compeared James McKerrow farmer in Boreland who being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial council depones that he recollects being present in the house of John Gibb at the time and

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for the purpose abovementioned by the preceding witness viz to receive from Alexander Calder certain stock and interest due by him to John Barrie a minor for whom he and the preceding witness acted.

Depones that he recollects the said Alexander Calder paying part of the said sum, what particular part he cannot recollect but only that it did not amount to the whole sum due by him.

Depones that he recollects Alexander Calder saying that he declined paying the balance till some transactions between them the said Alexander Calder and Hugh McKerrow the deponent's brother were settled.

Depones that he signed a discharge written upon a stamp along with said Hugh McKerrow which discharge was in full of all due by said Alexander Calder to said John Barrie minor, which discharge he recollects the said Alexander Calder took with him.

Depones that he also recollects being present in the house of George Patrick, weaver in Cumnock when Alexander Calder paid some money to Thomas Campbell, merchant in Cumnock and to George

Drummond, wright in Cumnock. Depones that he does not now recollect the amount of money paid to either of these persons.

Depones that he subscribed witness to the assignation of a bond which the said Thomas Campbell had upon said property belonging to George Patrick and that he recollects said bond passing from the hands of said Thomas Campbell into the hands of Alexander Calder.

Depones that he recollects another paper being in the hands of George Drummond, and so far as he the deponent can now recollect the said George Drummond put his name upon said paper but does not now remember whether said paper was produced in consideration of the money then paid him. And this is the truth. (signed) James McKerrow, Tho Miller

Compeared John McKerrow merchant in Cumnock who being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial council depones that he recollects having accompanied his uncle Hugh McKerrow a preceeding witness to the house of Alexander Calder in order to be present at the settlement of some affairs between

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them, does not recollect the precise time but thinks it may be nine or ten years ago.

Depones that they settled their affairs formerly in dispute in an amicable manner at that time, and that he recollects that on that occasion Hugh McKerrow paid Alexander Calder either a twenty shilling note or a guinea note in consideration of a gold ring which said Alexander Calder claimed from said Hugh McKerrow.

Depones that he does not recollect anything else having passed between them at that time, but the delivery of a paper from Alexander Calder to Hugh McKerrow, the contents of which paper he is ignorant of. And this is the truth (signed) John McKerrow, Tho Miller.

The Session agreed to adjourn till Monday next at midday and ordered their officer summond Hugh McKerrow wright in Cumnock and John Scott wright in Braehead in parish of Auchinleck to attend said meeting in hopes that their testimony will throw some further light on this affair.

Cumnock 21st November 1803

Met in consequence of adjournment the Session of Cumnock, sederunt the Moderator, John Gibb Elder, William Simson Elder and David Welsh, Elder.

The officer reported that he had duly summoned John Scott in Braehead as ordered by the Session at their last meeting.

Compeared John Scott wright in Braehead who being solemnly sworn, purged of malice and partial council depones that in the evening of a Yule fair of Mauchline some years ago, he the deponent was sent for to the house of John Gibb in Cumnock where he met with Alexander Calder and Hugh McKerrow wright in Cumnock at whose desire he understood he had been sent for in order to settle some matters in dispute between them.

Depones that he understood the matters in dispute between them were some articles which had been bequeathed to the heirs of Hugh McKerrow, late merchant in Glasgow, uncle to the said Hugh McKerrow, wright in Cumnock and to Mary McKerrow

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wife of the said Alexander Calder.

Depones that to the best of his recollection these articles consisted of a tea chest, six silver tea spones, a snuff box and some gold rings as he was then informed.

Depones that he strongly advised Hugh McKerrow to come in the will of Alexander Calder for these articles, as he the deponent was fully persuaded that Alexander Calder having received two of the rings would never change for the other.

Depones that he was informed by Hugh McKerrow above mentioned that he had delivered to said Alexander Calder the other articles abovementioned except the abovementioned gold ring which declined to deliver because he had delivered it to a Mr Pagan in Glasgow who had been *serviciable** to the family in settling the affairs of Hugh McKerrow late merchant in Glasgow to who all these articles originally belonged.

Depones that sometime thereafter (he thinks rather more than a year) having chanced to be at Dumfries House upon business of his own he met with Alexander Calder who then informed him that he and Hugh McKerrow had agreed together about the ring which was in dispute between them. And this is the truth. (signed) John Scott Tho Miller.

**serviciable – helpful/of service*

Compeared Hugh McKerrow, wright in Cumnock, a former witness.

Being asked whether the settlement betwixt him and Alexander Calder as to the articles mentioned by the preceeding witness and when, depones that to his best recollection he settled with Alexander Calder in his own house twelve months after the Yule fair of Mauchline when in the house of John Gibb in Cumnock and in presence of John Scott a preceeding witness he the deponent had agreed to settle with Calder for them.

Depones that the affair which happened

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at the payment of the money due by Alexander Calder to the minor Barrie took place as in his former deposition three months thereafter.

Depones that in a holograph notification which he found placed on a smithy door in this parish, and signed by said Alexander Calder, he the deponent finds that he is charg'd by the said Alexander Calder with sums due to Agnes and Mary McKerrow, his sisters.

Depones that the said charge very much surprised him as he has in his possession which he now produces receipts and vouchers which testify that he had fully satisfied his said sisters Agnes and

Mary McKerrow for all moneys of theirs' in his hands long ago. And this is the truth. (signed) Hugh McKerrow Tho Miller.

The Session having closed the evidence in this affair of Alexander Calder agree to adjourn the farther consideration of it till the evening of Monday the twenty eight instant by which time they will severally have perused the evidence adduced and be able then to determine as to their future procedure in this business.

This day David Welsh one of the members of Session was unanimously elected elder to attend Presbytery and Synod for this ensuing half year. Tho Miller, moderator.

Cumnock 28th November 1803

This evening the session met in consequence of adjournment, sederunt the Moderator and other members.

They read over the whole proceedings contained in their minutes as to the affair of Alexander Calder, and having reasoned on the same are of the opinion that the testimony of some of the witnesses seems to them to bear no hand in the character of Alexander Calder as might justify their declining to give him (present circumstances considered) a certificate if he shall require the same. But being desirous to have the opinion of a superior court how far they were warranted to enter into the investigation of this affair after a protest has been taken in the name of Alexander Calder declined in consequence of said protest to be present although desired to be so and at the examination of the different witnesses adduced in his affair, and being informed that the meeting of presbytery is to take place in a day or two they unanimously agree to refer this whole affair for advice to the Presbytery of Air appointed to meet on the 30th current & appoint their clerk to make extracts accordingly.*

**The minutes for Ayr presbytery on 30th November 1803 notes that they had read and considered the extracts of the proceedings at Cumnock, and found that the Session were justified in investigating the matter. As seems to be the usual case, the Presbytery referred the matter back to Cumnock Kirk Session to either investigate further or decide on any action based on the evidence they had already obtained.*

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Cumnock 23^d January 1804

This day Session being met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb, David Welsh and William Simson, Elders.

The Session resumed the consideration of the case of Alexander Calder.

The minister reported that agreeable to their resolution of the 28th of November last he had laid before the Presbytery said affair for their advice. He produced their deliverance thereupon which was as follows.

“Ayr 30th November 1803.

The Presbytery of Air find it was competent for the Kirk session of Old Cumnock to enter upon the investigation of this affair, and they remit this cause to said Kirk Session advising them either to proceed farther into the enquiry, or to decide on the evidence already before them.”

The Kirk Session having considered this remit from the Presbytery and having again read over in part the evidence taken before them in this affair judge it to be inexpedient* farther to investigate into it. Meantime they are unanimously of opinion that it were improper for them in present circumstances to give Alexander Calder the certificate he require, and till the suspicions to the prejudice of his character which have arisen from this affair shall be cleared up to their satisfaction, they prohibit said certificate being given him.

The Session farther authorise their clerk to give extracts of all their proceedings in this affair to said Alexander Calder when required. Tho Miller, Moderator.

**inexpedient – not proper, not worth*

Cumnock 5th February 1804

This day Session constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared Anne Cox daughter of John Cox at Dumfries House, acknowledged that three weeks ago, she was delivered of a child in fornication, accused James Glasgow presently residing in village of Auchinleck as father of said child.

Compeared ultroneously the said James Glasgow and acknowledged the truth of said charge laid against him by said Anne Cox.

They were both suitably exhorted by the Moderator.

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Cumnock 30th March 1804

Session being met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and John Gibb and William Simson.

James Granger Smith and Anne Lenox compeared spontaneously before this meeting of Session acknowledged that they were irregularly married in the month of August 13th in the year eighteen hundred and three. They were rebuked for this, their disorderly behaviour, promised to adhere to one another as man and wife & dismissed.

Same day.

The officer was called and reported that agreeable to orders he duly summoned Jean Kennedy, wife of Thomas Murray, private in (blank space) regiment, and William White, stockingmaker in this village to attend this meeting of Session, the Session having received information that the said Jean Kennedy was lately delivered of a child.

The said Jean Kennedy did not compear being confined in distress.

William White being called compeared and acknowledged Jean Kennedy was lately delivered of a child of which he acknowledged himself the father. He was reminded of the obligation he became under both by the Presbytery & Kirk Session not to frequent the company of said Jean Kennedy,

which he acknowledged however continuing to do so in the face of recommendation of both Presbytery and Session.

He was exhorted suitably to his confession and ordered to wait upon this Session in company with said Jean Kennedy, that their joint acknowledgement may be taken previous to their being sent to the Presbytery to whom the judicial judgement of their crime belongs, this now being a trilapse in adultery to said parties. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 22nd April 1804

Session being met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and other members of Session.

Compeared upon citation William White and Jean Kennedy mentioned in the minute of last sederunt and acknowledged that as mentioned in said last minutes she had lately been delivered of a child born of adultery to the said William White, and he the said William White acknowledged himself the father of said child.

They were both summoned apud acta to compear before the Presbytery of Air upon Wednesday first, the twenty fifth current as this is now the third child she has born in adultery to said William White by their own acknowledgement.

Same day John Gibb was unanimously chosen Elder to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 29th April 1804

This day compeared before the Session in consequence of intimation from the officer William White and Jean Kennedy mentioned in minutes of last sederunt, when the deliverance of the Presbytery of Air underwritten was read over to them.

“Air, April 25th 1804

The Presbytery of Air constituted minute of the Kirk Session of Old Cumnock respecting William White and Jean Kennedy both in that parish, as guilty of adultery together for the third time, was produced and read over and said William White and Jean Kennedy being cited to this day's meeting were called but William White only compeared and was rebuked.

The Presbytery considering the aggravated nature of their crime and their obstinate continuance in it appoint that they both shall be laid under the sentence of the lesser Excommunication until such time as they give satisfactory evidence of their repentance and remit them to said Kirk

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Session and Dr Miller is to intimate said sentence from the pulpit in the Church of Old Cumnock.

Extracted by (signed William Peebles, Presbytery Clerk,”

Cumnock 6th May 1804

This day pursuant to the order of the Presbytery of Air, William White and Jean Kennedy mentioned above were laid under the Lesser Excommunication by the Rev Dr Miller, he publishing from the pulpit the sentence of the Presbytery to that effect.

Cumnock 23rd November 1804

This day Session being met and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and David Welsh and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously John Broklebank, mole catcher, & Agnes Gibb spouses & acknowledged themselves to have been guilty of antenuptial fornication. They were suitably exhorted, rebuked and by order of Session absolved from the scandal of this their acknowledged fault.

Cumnock 15th February 1805

Session being met and constituted, Sederunt the Rev Dr Miller, Moderator and David Welsh and William Simson, Elders.

The Minister laid before the Session a minute of the Kirk Session of Closeburn with a letter from the minister of said parish requesting that this Session summon and call before them Margaret French, wife of Robert Kennedy, weaver in Cumnock and Sarah Richmond, wife of William Murray in this (village). Sarah Richmond is a midwife in this village in order to question them about a young child said to have been carried about six months ago from that neighbourhood and said to be put to nurse in the village of Cumnock.

Compeared Margaret French spouse to Robert Kennedy weaver in Cumnock and acknowledged that she is now nursing and has nursed for a little more than six months past a male child, being questioned from whom she received said child, said he was brought to her by Jean Murray, daughter of William Murray and Sarah Richmond, midwife in this village, farther declared that said Sarah Richmond had engaged her four weeks before to nurse a child which she would bring to her, and that her said daughter Jean Murray informed her upon bringing her the child that that was the child which her mother had engaged her to nurse. Being further interrogated if she knew or was informed from whence the said child came declares she did not, only she supposes it could come from no great distance as it appeared to be not above two days old when she received it. Farther declares that said Sarah Richmond regularly pays her the weekly hire agreed upon for nursing said child, declared upon being farther interrogated that no person has inquired for said child since he was brought till Monday se'enight the fourth current, when she was sent for to the house of William Miller, weaver in Cumnock, by a person she understood was an Alexander Jardine from the parish of Closeburn who expressed a wish to see the child and upon seeing the child he said he had no doubt but that he was from Closeburn and that under that conviction he would give information to the Session of Closeburn concerning the child.

Farther declares that on the evening of Wednesday last said Sarah Richmond came to her house and desired her to have said child ready for being taken away from her in the

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space of two hours thereafter, but that she replied that she had no objection to his being taken away from her if she was allowed to keep him till next morning, that no application was again made for the child till this morning when the said Jean Murray came and again asked for the child, in reply to which she the declarant declined giving up the child at all till the end of the nine months agreeable to the original engagement or till she received payment for that time, declared that the said child is still with her and that this is all she knows of the matter, declares she cannot write and requests the Moderator to sign for her. Tho Miller.

As said Sarah Richmond tho summoned to attend this meeting did not appear the Officer is again ordered to summon her a second time to appear before this Session on Monday next at five o'clock in the evening and as it appears that Jean Murray, daughter of the said Sarah Richmond is likely to know something of the matter, he is also ordered to cite said Jean Murray to attend said meeting.

Cumnock 21st February 1805

Compeared spontaneously Janet Caskie in Nethertoun of Borland acknowledged that she brought forth a child in fornication about the later end of September last and having been solemnly exhorted and interrogated as to who is the father declared that William Cook, servant to Andrew McLanohan in Millzeoch is the father of her said child, that he has acknowledged the charge and had got the child baptised in the ?society to which he belongs some time ago. And that she now craves of the Session to be taken under discipline for this her crime. Tho Miller.

Cumnock 18th February 1805

This evening Session constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

(This entry comes after the above entry dated 21st Feb.)

The officer reported that he duly cited Sarah Richmond to compear before this meeting of Session, but understands that from indisposition she is not able to attend.

He farther reported that her daughter Jean Murray had gone to Ayr prior to the date of last sederunt and is not yet returned so that she cannot compear having never received summons.

The Session desire the Minister and William Simson one of the Elders to wait upon said Sarah Richmond at her own house and to take down her declaration as to said affair as soon as convenient. (signed) Thomas Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 26th February 1805

In consequence of Sarah Richmon midwife in this village not having compeared before this Session though summoned the Revd Dr Miller, Minister, and William Simson one of his Elders at the request of the Session at large went to the house of said Sarah Richmond and interrogated her as to what she knows of the history of the stranger infant which Margaret French, wife of Robert Kennedy, weaver in Cumnock is now nursing.

In answer t this said Sarah Richmond now declared that in summer last a Mr Johnston from Air an officer in the Excise (*she believes) engaged her to wait upon and deliver a pregnant lady residing at some considerable distance from this, and in the meantime to have a nurse hired and ready to receive the child as soon as born, that she engaged with the said Mr Johnston accordingly, and immediately applied to Margaret French, wife of Robert Kennedy weaver in Cumnock, to take the charge of nursing said child when born which she also engaged to do. That she the declarant set out on her road to said Lady in a short time thereafter in the Carlisle long coach so far as Thornhill, but that finding herself from bodily indisposition incapable of performing her engagements she in a few days thereafter returned home to Cumnock without ever

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having seen said Lady. That a few weeks thereafter at a time when she was fom home a new born male child was brought to her house, that her daughters were informed by those who brought it that it was the child for which their mother had engaged to find a nurse, that he daughter Jean Murray took said child to said Margaret French where it still remains and that she the declarant regularly receives remittances from said Mr Johnston for payment of the nurse's fee conform to agreement. Farther declares that she has not the most distant knowledge whatever as to who is the father or as to who is the mother of said child, not knows she anything as to said Lady's place of residence notwithstanding her having gone as far (as above declared) towards said place of residence.

Farther declares that very lately (she thinks so far as she can now recollect on the evening of Wednesday se'enight) a stranger man and woman came to this village and demanded said child from said Margaret French, that said stranger man was in her the declarant's house at that time, and that she has since been informed that both he and the stranger woman were in the house of Andrew Kirkland, weaver in Stepends in parish of Auchinleck near to this village but cannot be positive as to this as she has it only from report. Declares that she has no knowledge whatever who the said stranger man or woman were, from whence they came or by whom employed to demand said child. Declares that this is in full of all she knows concerning this matter and says that she cannot write and therefore begs the Minister to sign this for her. (signed) Thomas Miller, Minister.

Cumnock 26th April 1805

This day Session being met in the Schoolhouse and constituted, Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

The Session taking into consideration the small number they at present consist of did after due and full deliberation nominate and make choice of

William Johnston, shoemaker in the village of Cumnock

William Galbreath, carpenter there

David Smith, farmer in Holm of Barshare

John Baird, farmer in Watston of Borland

Andrew White at Benston limeworks

Alexander Thomson in Hillhouse of Glassnock

Adam Ralston in Woodhead

George Dumbar, farmer in Watson

as persons fit and proper to be chosen into the office of Elder and they hereby appoint intimation of this by the Minister next Lord's day, and farther to intimate that if no valid objections are made to the life and conversation of the above persons, the Minister will proceed upon that day fortnight (the twelfth day of May next) to ordain and set them apart to the office of Elder in this congregation.

Tho Miller, moderator.

Cumnock 12th May 1805

This day William Galbreath carpenter in Cumnock, John Baird farmer in Watston of Borland were (in consequence of their edict having been served last Lord's day and no objection offered to them not to any of the rest formerly nominated as mentioned in last minute) regularly ordained Elders of this parish in presence of the Congregation and received the right hand of fellowship accordingly. The other six declined accepting the office.

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Cumnock 23^d June 1805

Session being met and constituted betwixt sermons. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members of Session.

Compeared spontaneously Robert Morison, late servant in Logan in this parish acknowledged himself the father of the child which Janet Morton daughter of Janet Mitchel in this village, an unmarried woman, lately brought forth and craved of the Session to be taken under discipline for his fault as soon as they may think right and proper to grant him this priviledge.

He was suitably admonished by the Moderator. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 8th September 1805

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members of Session, John Baird excepted.

Compeared spontaneously William Smith in Holm of Barshare acknowledged himself guilty of antenuptial fornication with Jean Goldie his spouse, and craved of the session to be taken under discipline for this his acknowledged fault.

The Session having taken this affair into consideration order them to be rebuked before them and absolved from the scandal which his fault has laid him under.

He was suitably exhorted, rebuked and absolved from scandal accordingly. Tho Miller, Minister.

Cumnock 3^d November 1805

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and David Welsh, William Galbreath and William Simson Elders.

William Galbreath one of their number was unanimously chosen to attend Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year. Tho Miller, Minister.

Cumnock 17th November 1805

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Jean Craig, daughter of William Craig in Woodhead, acknowledged herself with child in fornication, and after having been seriously exhorted and interrogated declared that William Cook, servant with Andrew McLanochan in Millzeoch where she is also a servant at the time is the father of her child, that she has informed him of her situation, & that she has informed him of her situation, & that he has not yet been brought to the acknowledgement of the truth of this her charge. This she declares is truth, declares she cannot write and requests the moderator to sign for her. Tho Miller, Minister.

The Session order their officer to cite said William Cok before their next meeting of Session to be held here upon next Lords day to which meeting she the said Jean Craig is cited apud acta to appear.

Tho Miller, Minister.

Cumnock 24th November 1805

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and other members.

The officer reports that he duly summons William Cook whom he found personally to attend this meeting of Session. Said William Cook being now called upon did not compear,

Compeared the abovementioned Jean Craif, declared her adherence to her former accusation of William Cook. Said William Cook not compearing the officer is ordered to summons him pro secundo before this Session next Lord's Day, which meeting said Jean Craig is summons apud acta to attend.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock 1st December 1805

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members, except William Galbreath.

The Officer reported that he duly cited William Cook pro secundo to compear before this Session this day.

Jean Craig compeared and declared her adherence to her former accusation of William Cook lately her fellow servant in Millzeoch as the father of her child.

William Cook being called did not compear.

The Session order their officer to cite said William Cook pro tertio to attend a meeting of Session next Lord's Day, to which meeting of Session said Jean Craig is cited apud acta to appear.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 8th December 1805

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

The officer reported that he had duly cited William Cook abovementioned in the preceeding minutes pro tertio.

Jean Craig compeared and declared her adherence to her accusation of William Cook lately her fellow servant in Millzeoch as the father of her child.

William Cook compeared and after having been seriously exhorted and interrogated as to the truth of said charge declared that he is innocent of the charge solemnly declaring that he never had any criminal correspondence with said Jean Craig.

Jean Craig being questioned as to the time when they had said criminal correspondence declared that it happened on the day before Cumnock May Fair last, adding that Barbara McLanochan her fellow servant in Millzeoch saw them go into a chamber together alone on said day.

The Session order said Barbara McLanochan to be summoned to next meeting of Session next Lord's Day and at the desire of William Cook order likewise David Weir, son of John Weir in Little Millzeoch to be summoned to said meeting to declare what he knows as to the character of the accuser.

The parties are summoned apud acta to compear on said day. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 15th December 1805

This day Session constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members.

The officer reported that he had duly summoned David Weir, late servant in Millzeoch and Barbara McLanochan previously servant there, and Andrew McLanochan farmer there.

The parties compeared viz William Cook and Jean Craig, and both adhered to their former declarations, she to accuse said William Cook as the father of her child and he to refuse said charge.

Compeared Barbara McLanochan going thirteen years of age a witness cited at the desire of Jean Craig and she being questioned by said Jean Craig whether or not she ever saw William Cook go into the Millzeoch chamber where she the said Jean Craig was at the time to which she answered that she one day saw him come from the yeard where he was at work and go into the chamber where said Jean Craig was at the time and stay, that she saw him shut the door behind him when he first

entered said chamber that all this happened on the day immediately before Cumnock May Fair to the best of her recollection.

Compeared David Weir late servant in Millzeoch, a witness cited at the instance of William Cook and he being interrogated whether Jean Craig ~~ever charged him as being the father of~~ ever came to his father's house and charged him with being the father of a child of which she then supposed

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herself to be quick. The witness answered that he recollects her having come to his father's house upon a Sunday morning rather more than two years ago and having called him out charged him as above stated to which he answered that if she was with child it could not be to him, and this is all that he knows.

Compeared ultroneously William Proudie servant in Millzeoch aged about fourteen years who at the desire of William Cook was interrogated whether Barbara McLanochan the above witness had not alone time said to him that she had seen William Cook go into the chamber at Millzeoch where Jean Craig was & remain some little time says he recollects her having told him so but that afterwards in presence of Adam Samson a fellow servant at Millzeoch she said, that in what she had mentioned with regard to William Cook and Jean Craig she said she was only truing* them for that she had seen no such thing.

**truing – trying to establish the truth*

Compeared in consequence of citation Andrew McLanochan farmer in Millzeoch, who at the desire of Jean Craig was asked if he ever heard Barbara McLanochan mention any this as to her having seen William Cook and Jean Craig go into his chamber, made answer that he recollects her having said so and repeated what she said which agrees in every respect with what said Barbara McLanochan has above declared.

The Session at the request of William Cook the defendant order Adam Samson abovementioned to attend a meeting of Session to be held here on Thursday first at fice o'clock in the afternoon. Both parties were cited apud acta to compear said day. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 19th December 1805

This day Session constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and David Welsh, William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared William Cook and Jean Craig mentioned in last minute.

Adam Samson not having appeared, William Cook petitioned the Session to adjourn in order to have an opportunity of examining him before them.

The Session said petition and therefore adjourn to Tuesday the thirty first day of December current in the schoolroom at four o'clock in the afternoon to which meeting both parties are cited apud acta to compear.

Same day compeared spontaneously John McClymond servant to Mr McVitie in this village and Anne Houston his wife acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication for which they were rebuked and by order of Session absolved from the scandal. Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock 31st December 1805

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Baird, William Galbreath and William Simson and David Welsh, Elders.

Jean Craig mentioned in the former minutes compeared.

William Cook was called duly but did not compear. The Officer informed the Session that said William Cook has left this place.

The Session delay the farther consideration of this affair till they inquire into the truth of said report and in the meantime empower their officer to grant extracts of minutes respecting of to Jean Craig the accuser on demand. Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock 17th March 1806

This evening Session being met in the school room and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously George Lisle from the parish of Monkton who was married to Margaret Latta, daughter of Thomas Latta in this village in the month of January last, and the said Magaret Latta acknowledged themselves to have been guilty of antenuptial fornication and craved to be taken under discipline for this their crime.

Cumnock 23^d March 1806

Session met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and David Welsh, William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Grizzel Mar servant to Daniel Wilson farmer in Over Glaisnock acknowledged herself with child, and having been seriously exhorted & interrogated declared that John McGregor her fellow servant in said Glaisnock is the father of her child and that the guilt was committed about the latter end of July last in the house of her said master, and that she sometime ago informed said John McGregor of this her situation and that this is the truth, declares she cannot write and therefore desires the Moderator to sign this her declaration for her. Tho Miller, Minister.

She is summoned apud acta to compear before the Session next Lord's Day against which meeting the officer is ordered to summon said John McGregor to compear. Tho Miller, moderator.

Cumnock 30th March 1806

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and the other members.

The officer reported that he duly cited John McGregor mentioned in last minute.

Compeared the said Grizzel Mar and the said John McGregor mentioned in the last minute. The minutes of last sederunt being read over in presence of both the said Grizzel Mar was asked if she adhered still to the accusation of John McGregor as therein contained to which she answered that she still adheres to her said declaration.

The said John McGreegor having been now seriously exhorted and interrogated declared that he is entirely innocent of the crime laid to his charge, acknowledges however that she had sometime ago acquainted him with her situation and at that time desired him to apply to Andrew Timpleton junior in Clockclounie who had during last winter been her fellow servant in Over Glaisnock, to procure from him some Saving Tree*, to do which he refused and she never afterwards spoke to him, or acquainted him more with her situation.

The said Grizzel Mar acknowledges that she desired him to apply for said tree as above stated and that at that time she did not say to him that he was the father of her child but declares that she had both before that time and since that time informed him of her situation, and that he was the father of her child, and says that when she desired him to go for the Saving Tree he refused, and said that if the child was his he knew what he would do.

The said John McGreegor being interrogated if he

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recollects her having accused him as the father and of his having replied he knew what he would do if the child was his declares he recollects no such thing.

The Session delay the farther consideration of this affair to next next Lord's Day at which meeting the said John McGreegor is cited apud acta to attend. Thomas Miller, Moderator.

**Saving Tree – a plant, possibly a type of juniper, apparently used to induce abortion.*

Cumnock 6th April 1806

Session met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

Compeared John McGregor mentioned in last minute eas seriously exhorted and again interrogated as to the charge pf Grizzel Mar mentioned in last minute. He adhered to his former denial and persisted therein and gave no reasons for his doing so.

The Session although they have from the whole behaviour of said John McGregor strong presumption of the truth of the charge of said Grizzel Mar, they yet delay the farther consideration of this affair till the woman's delivery, or any other occurrences shall throw light upon this affair.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 24th April 1806

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Baird, David Welsh, William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

The minister reported to the Session that Alexander Calder sometime ago one of their number but now residing in the parish of Galston had at a meeting of Presbytery in January last given in a petition complaining that this Session had in consequence of their declining to give him a certificate on leaving this parish which he had repeatedly applied for withheld him and family from church privileges for a considerable time past and craving that he and family might be restored to the privileges of the Church.

The Minister farther reported that having been necessarily absent from the above meeting of Presbytery in January last, he had in obedience to an appointment of Presbytery of that date attended in his place at a meeting of Presbytery in March last.

That in his own and in the Session's name he had given in answers to the petition and complaint of Alexander Calder.

That in these answers he had informed the Presbytery that Mary McKerrow, wife of Alexander Calder had obtained a regular certificate for herself on leaving the parish, and that as Alexander Calder had done nothing as yet to remove the Fama referred to in the minutes of this Session on this affair they on that ground had hitherto declined to give him the certificate he had craved for himself.

The Minister farther reported to the Session that the Presbytery of Ayr at their meeting in March last after having heard the Minister for himself and Session and the said Alexander for himself had been pleased to remit back his affair to this Session for their further considering it and giving an explicit judgement on it.

That the tenor of the remit which has only come into his hand two days ago is as follows

"Ayr 26th Day of March 1896

The Presbytery of Ayr met and constituted.

Interalia the Clerk reports that he had informed Dr Miller of Alexander Calder's petition laid before the Presbyter on the 29th January last and that he for himself and his Session was to appear before the Presbytery this day.

Parties were called when compeared Dr Miller for himself and his Session and Alexander Calder for himself.

Said Alexander Calder's petition was again read. Then Dr Miller was heard for himself and his Session and Alexander Calder for himself. Parties were then removed and the Presbytery having reasoned at some length on the subject of Alexander Calder's petition they

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remit his cause to the Kirk Session of Old Cumnock who are to give a more explicit decision respecting the suspicions alleged against said Alexander Calder and they enjoin said Alexander Calder to attend the Kirk Session of Old Cumnock when called by them.

Parties being called in said sentence was intimated to them in which they both acquiesced.

Extracted by William Peebles P. Clerk."

The Session in obedience to said remit and appointment of Presbytery having now met, after conversing together agreed to meet in the schoolhouse here for the purpose of farther deliberating

on this affair on Wednesday the thirtieth day of April current and in the meantime they appoint their Clerk to give intimation of said meeting to Alexander Calder in order that as appointed by Presbytery he may give due attendance on said meeting. And the Session farther enjoin their Clerk to intimate to Alexander Calder that it is expected he will then come prepared to inform the Session whether it be his intention to take any steps and what these steps are forbearing himself from the Fama constituted by the allegations in a representation given in to this Session in the month of March 1803 which allegations by his petition dated the 5th of August 1803 he craved to be judicially enquired into and witnesses to be examined thereon.

Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock 30th April 1806

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

The Clerk reported that he had given intimation of this day's meeting of Session ordered at last sederunt by letter to Alexander Calder, dated the (*blank*) of April 1806.

Appeared accordingly said Alexander Calder and being asked whether it be his intention to take any steps and what these steps are for clearing himself from the Fama, said that he did not mean to call any witnesses to, except himself from the Fama constituted by the allegations contained in the representation formerly given in to the Session, as he considered them all groundless and ill founded. Farther declared that he had no objection to the Session's calling any other witnesses besides those already adduced whose evidence they might consider as necessary for throwing light upon the affair, if they should be of opinion that any such witnesses should be called. But added at the same time that it was his determined purpose to attend upon the examination of any one such witness ~~they should hereafter call in the affair~~ being determined from henceforth to attend no meeting of this Session till they should come to a final decision on this matter.

The Session being of opinion that the evidence of George Patrick and of Alexander Patrick both in this village may serve to throw light upon the evidence of George Drummond a witness formerly examined in the affair agreed that these persons should be summoned accordingly, and the session hereby appoint a meeting to be held in the schoolhouse here upon Thursday the eighth day of May next at midday, and the officer was ordered to summon the above George Patrick, weaver in Cumnock and Alexander Patrick shoemaker in Cumnock to attend the said meeting of Session at twelve o'clock forenoon of said day of which meeting the Clerk was ordered to give due and legal intimation to Alexander Calder. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 8th May 1806

Session met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Minutes of last sederunt were read and the Clerk reported that had had given due intimation of this meeting to Alexander Calder in evidence of which he produced answer from said Alexander Calder to his letter in which he declines to attend this meeting. Said letter is ordered to be kept in relentis.

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The session now order their officer to call said Alexander Calder which being duly done he did not compear.

But the Session notwithstanding his absence resolve to take the declarations of the two persons viz Alexander Patrick shoemaker and George Patrick weaver in this village who have been duly summoned to attend this meeting of Session in the hope as said in last minute that their declaration might serve to throw some light upon the evidence already before the Session in the affair of said Alexander Calder.

Compeared Alexander Patrick aged fifty years of age and upwards who being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial council deponed that about a year and a half to the best of his recollection before the death of John Patrick his father who died in the year seventeen hundred and ninety one, he received an accepted bill from his father, that the amount of the bill was ten pounds sterling, that his father owed him that amount for wages. That he the deponent having borrowed money from George Drummond, wright in Cumnock, he gave said bill into the hands of the said George Drummond, but did not indorse said bill.

Being farther interrogated if he knows what became of said bill after it was put into the hands of said George Drummond depones that he has been informed that George Drummond received payment of said bill from George Patrick his the deponent's brother at the time when he the said George Patrick received payment from Alexander Calder of the houses etc he sold him. Depones farther that he apprehends his brother George Patrick should have got up said bill but is informed that it is in the hands of said Alexander Calder.

Farther depones that he the deponent never had any other bill from his said father upon any account whatever but the one above mentioned. And this is the truth. (signed) Alexander Patrick, Tho Miller.

Compeared George Patrick aged 60 years and upwards who being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial council depones that at the time when Alexander Calder met in the house of the deponent to pay Thomas Campbell and George Drummond certain sums of money due by the deponent to the said two persons, it is in his recollection that at that time George Drummond received payment of a bill amounting to eleven pounds sterling mark and interest due by him the deponent as heir to his father, to his brother Alexander Patrick.

Depones farther that said bill although paid to George Drummond was not indorsed by his said brother Alexander Patrick to the said George Drummond but declares that upon his the deponents advice said George Drummond received said bill from his said brother as a pledge for money which he the George Drummond has lent to his said brother Alexander Patrick.

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Depones also that to the best of his recollection said bill was granted to his brother Alexander Patrick the preceeding witness by his father John Patrick some time before his death, that the principle was ten pounds sterling and that the odd twenty shillings was for the two years interest on the same after his mother's death as none else was changed.

Depones farther that when said eleven pounds in stock and interest were paid to said George Drummond he the deponent observed that said bill should either be thrown into the fire or that the name of the acceptor should be taken from it but that Alexander Calder said he would keep said bill in evidence of the money transaction which had passed between him and the deponent that on that day. Being farther interrogated depones that except the above bill he never saw nor knows of any other bill accepted by his father John Patrick and drawn payable to his said brother Alexander Patrick, that he is the more confident of this as it is in his recollection thar said bill was written by William Baine manufacturer then residing in this village, and that said bill wherever produced will be seen to be of the handwriting of said William Baine. And this is the truth. (signed) George Patrick, Tho Miller.

The Session in consideration of two of their number being absent delay the farther consideration of this affair to Monday the nineteenth day of this current month when they will proceed agreeable to the appointment of Presbytery to give some determination upon the same and they order their Clerk to write to the said Alexander Calder informing him of this day's meeting of Session requesting his attendance as enjoined by the Presbytery. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 19th May 1806

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

The Clerk reported that he had given due and legal intimation of this meeting of Session to Alexander Calder and reported that he had received two letters from said Alexander Calder which he produced and read, in both of which he intimated his fixed purpose not to attend any meeting of Session on this affair to which he may be called.

The Session having in terms of the remit of the Presbytery of Ayr, again considered the proof formerly taken in the affair of Alexander Calder, having also considered that part of it constituted by the Declarations of Alexander and George Patrick, having compared said proof with the allegations contain in a representation dated the eleventh day of March eighteen hundred & three delivered into the Session by certain individuals of this parish craving that said allegations might be examined into; and it appearing both from a paper of date the sixteenth of March eighteen hundred & three in the handwriting of Alexander Calder, and from a petition signed by him and dated the fifth day of August eighteen hundred and three, that his desire and request was that the Session would enquire into the particulars contained in the above mentioned representation. The Session taking all this into consideration they find it proven.

1mo. (Primo) That the accepted Bill now held by Alexander Calder (of which he is said so frequently to have demanded payment from

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George Drummond wright in Cumnock as a debt due by said Drummond to him) constituted part of a debt affecting the subject belonging to George Patrick weaver in Cumnock which he the said George Patrick sold to Alexander Calder, that the said Bill was by Alexander Patrick, the drawer and original holder thereof, put into the hands of George Drummond in consequence of the said George Drummond having advanced to the said Alexander Patrick at his request the value thereof. That when the price of said subject was paid, the said George Drummond received out of the money paid

by Alexander Calder to said George Patrick for his subject, payment of said bill, amounting to eleven pounds sterling stock and interest due thereon. That said bill (having been thus paid out of the money which the said George Patrick received for his subject from Alexander Calder, and he the said Alexander Calder having got possession of the said subject) should have been delivered up to said George Patrick, instead of being kept by Alexander Calder, who it appears still retains the same and demands payment thereof from said George Drummond and persists in doing so.

2do. (Secundo). The Session find farther proven that Alexander Calder, at a meeting between him and his two brothers in law James and Hugh McKerrow held for the purpose of settling the affairs of a minor, having been paid part of a sum of money due by him the said Alexander Calder to said minor too and still retains (as alleged) in his hands a full discharge for the whole sum due by him to said Minor although there remained in his hands and still remains a considerable part thereof unpaid to the said James and Hugh McKerrow, who had granted him a discharge for the whole debt.

3to. (Tertio) It appears from an accmpt transmitted to the Clerk of this Session, and now by him laid before them, which accmpt is in the handwriting of the said Alexander Calder and in which among other articles, the minister is charged as owing him four guineas for exacting certain parts of the official duty which he the said Alexander Calder, then an Elder in this parish was as such bound to discharge that he thereby lays claim to what can be granted to him in no other way than by doing injustice to the poor.

The Session therefore consider him guilty of having virtually broken the Oath de fideli which he took when set apart to the office of an Elder in this parish.

The session taking all these several things into their consideration, and also farther considering that Alexander Calder although called upon to clear himself from the Fama yet prevailing against his character on the grounds mentioned in the representation given into them still declines to clear or purge himself from the same while they apprehend that the above circumstances and facts furnish sufficient grounds for their still refusing to grant him the certificate required, yet finding that he preserves in declining to appear before them as they suppose on the ground that the circumstances and facts of this affair fall to be investigated by the civil and not the ecclesiastical courts of this country. The Session having maturely considered all this agreed to refer as they hereby unanimously do refer this affair to the consideration and determination of the Presbytery, leaving to that Reverend Court to pass such judgement in it as without prejudice to the radical court shall be for edification. They order extracts when required. Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock 26th May 1806

Session met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and David Welsh, William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared Grizzel Mar and John McGregor mentioned in former minutes.

The said Grizzel Mar adhered to her accusation of John McGregor as the father of her child and the said John McGregor adhered to his denial of the charge. Said Grizzel Mar produced a certificate from the midwife who attended her in childbed testifying that she then

declared that John McGregor was the father of her child and also attesting that said child was born upon the 23rd of April last.

Compeared in consequence of citation George Lammie, late servant in Over Glaisnock now in Dalricket Miln, above fourteen years of age. Declared that about the beginning of hay time last year Grizzel Mar came to the bed where he and John McGregor lay in Over Glaisnock barn that neither he the said John McGregor nor she had their clothes off so far as he knew. That she continued in bed with the said John McGregor about half an hour and that when they parted he heard said John McGregor say he would not could think to look her in the face next day, and this he declares is the truth. (signed) George Lammie, Tho Miller.

Compeared in consequence of citation John Crichton, servant in Over Glaisnock about sixteen years of age & declared that he recollects that sometime about hay time Grizzel Mar and John McGregor were in bed together in Over Glaisnock barn in said John McGregor's bed, that his means of knowing this was that his own bed was also in said barn near to the said John McGregor's bed, declares moreover that he knew them to have been several times together in that situation but says that he knows not what they were doing and this is the truth. (signed) John Crichton, Tho Miller

Compeared in consequence of citation Agnes Robb, spouse to Daniel Wilson, farmer in Over Glaisnock and declared that she knew that Grizzel Mar was out several times about the time of their going to bed, but knows not where she was and never questioned her upon that subject, only she recollects that one night she the deponent saw Grizzel Mar and John McGregor sometime in the month of July last go into the barn together about the time of going to bed, that she remained with him a considerable time there but cannot say how long, and this is the truth. Declares she cannot write and in due form desires the Minister to sign this her declaration for her. Tho Miller

Tho said John McGregor being again questioned if he had any observations to make upon the declarations of the above witnesses declares that he had none but acknowledges that he was in bed with her under night as above stated but that he had no criminal correspondence with her. He moreover acknowledges that the time he was with her agrees with what is above declared.

The Session having considered the evidence now adduced are of opinion that Grizzel Mar has justly accused John McGregor and that he should be held as having had criminal conversation with her at about the time abovementioned and considering that said time agrees with the birth of her child the Session is further of opinion that there is every legal presumption for his being the father of her child.

Parties being called in the above sentence of Session was intimated to them, & Cler is authorised to grant extracts to either party when required. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 20th July 1806

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

Compeared Thomas Moreson, smith at Glaisnock Smithy and Margaret Dagleish, acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication, expressing their repentance and sorrow for said crime. They were rebuked for said crime and by order of Session absolved from the scandal thereof. Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock 31st July 1806

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Thomas Stodart and Margaret Anderson spouses in this village, acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication, and expressed their sorrow for this their acknowledged crime.

They were rebuked by the Moderator and by order of the Session absolved from the scandal.

Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock 7th November 1806

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Margaret McMillan, lately residing with John Russel in this village, acknowledged herself with child, and having been seriously exhorted to tell the truth declared that Robert Buchan mason in this village is the father of her child. That the guilt was committed in said Robert Buchan's house about the latter end of May last, that she had informed him of this her situation in presence of James Johnston weaver in this village and his wife, to which he replied that if he had done a fault he would strive to make amends and this is truth. She declares she cannot write and desires the Moderator to sign this her declaration for her. Tho Miller

The Session order their officer to summon said Robert Buchan to compear before this Session upon Monday evening at six o'clock against which meeting said Margaret McMillan is cited apud acta to compear.

Cumnock 9th November 1806

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

John Baird in Watson of Borland one of their number was unanimously choses Elder to attend Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year. Tho Miller, Minister.

Cumnock 10th November 1806

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared Margaret McMillan mentioned in last minute. The Officer reported that he had duly summoned Robert Buchanan to attend this meeting of Session who though duly called compeared not.

The Officer is ordered to summon the said Robert Buchan pro secundo to attend this meeting of Session now adjourned to Thursday evening next at sic o'clock in the evening, to which meeting said Margaret McMillan is cite apud acta to compear. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 13th November 1806

This evening Session being met in the school room and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

The officer reported that he had duly summoned Robert Buchan, mason in Cumnock pro secundo to compear

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before this meeting of Session.

Compeared Margaret McMillan and Robert Buchan, said Robert Buchan having been interrogated as to the truth of said Margaret McMillan's charge he acknowledged himself guilty with her at the time she mentioned. (signed) Robert Buchan.

They were both suitably exhorted by the Moderator and dismissed.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 11th January 1807

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and two of the members of Session William Galbreath and William Simson.

Compeared spontaneously Agnes Cowan daughter of Charles Cown in Sillerburn, acknowledged herself with child in uncleanness and having been previously exhorted to tell the truth declared that John Sharp son of James Sharp farmer in Murdy (?Muirdyke) he is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed about the end of the month of May last and that she sometime ago informed him of this her situation & this is the truth, Declares she cannot write and desires the moderator to sign this for her.

The officer is ordered to cite said John Sharp to compear before this Session upon Sabbath next the 12th of this current month of January 1807, which meeting the said Agnes Cowan is now cited apud acta to attend. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 18th January 1807

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and (blank space).

The Officer reported that he duly cited John Sharp in Muirdyke to attend this meeting of Session conform to order of Session at last Sederunt by leaving a written summons at his father's house in Muirdyke when he was there informed that he had not been residing in this parish for two months past.

Said John Sharp was duly cited by the officer but did not compear.

Agnes Cowan compeared and was advised by the Session to cite said John Sharp before a Justice of the Peace without loss of time. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 27th February 1807

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Robert Buchan and Margaret McMillan spouses in this village acknowledging their sorrow for the sin of antenuptial fornication which they formally acknowledged before the Session they had been guilty of.

They were by appointment of Session now rebuked for said irregularity and absolved from the scandal thereof.

Cumnock 3^d May 1807

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

William Simson one of their number was unanimously elected elder to attend the presbytery and Synod during the ensuing half year.

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Cumnock 3^d May 1807

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the Elders.

The Minister reported to the Session that he had received when at last Presbytery the judgement of the Synod of Glasgow and Air in an appeal taken by Alexander Calder against sentence pronounced by the Presbytery of Air in his affair, the tenor whereof follows

“The Synod did and hereby do highly approve of the concern exhibited by the inferior courts for the purity of the moral character of those under their jurisdiction, yet on account of certain circumstances in this cause reverse the sentence appealed from in so far as it authorises the Kirk Session of Cumnock in present circumstances to refuse a certificate to the appellant when orderly craved as to the best of their knowledge they believe it to be consistent with truth.”

The Session agreeable to said appointment of Synod, after maturely considering this whole affair were of opinion that a certificate of the form and in the terms following should be granted to the said Alexander Calder when craved, and they hereby authorise and appoint their Clerk to make out a certificate in said terms, and they appoint their Moderator & Clerk to sign the same in their name. Follows form of the certificate above referred to

“That the Bearer hereof Alexander Calder, late wood forrester at Dumfries House duly certified from the parish he had before resided in the term of (blank space) in the year (blank space).

That sometime thereafter viz on the thirtieth of June seventeen hundred and ninety three he was duly ordained an Elder of this Parish and the he officiated as such till sometime before he left the Parish.

That rather more than a twelve month before his leaving the parish there was given into the Kirk Session a petition signed by sundries, craving that said Session would inquire into certain things alleged against said Alexander Calder which if found proven they conceived should disqualify him from any longer continuing a member of the Kirk Session.

That from the proof taken before the irk Session there appeared such grounds of Church Censure against Alexander Calder as rendered it in their opinion, improper to give him the certificate he craved when he left the parish.

That their opinion having been remitted for advice to Presbytery of Air, the said Presbytery authorised them not to grant him a certificate in present circumstances. That this judgement of the Presbytery having been carried by appeal before the Synod of Glasgow and Air in April last said Synod did after long reasoning pronounce upon said appeal the judgement following:

The Synod did and hereby do highly approve of the concern exhibited by the inferior courts for the purity of the moral character of those under their jurisdiction, yet on account of certain circumstances in this cause reverse the sentence appealed from in so far as it authorises the Kirk Session of Cumnock in present circumstances to refuse a certificate to the appelland when orderly craved as to the best of their knowledge they believe it to be consistent with truth.

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In obedience to which appointment and judgement of the venerable Synod of Glasgow and Air, the Kirk Session of Cumnock hereby certify the facts above stated, as known to them to be consistent with the truth.

In testimony whereof they authorise this in their name and by their appointment to be signed in their presence by their Moderator and Clerk at Cumnock the first of June eighteen hundred and seven”

(signed) Tho Miller, Moderator William Simson, Session Clerk

Cumnock 29th June 1807

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the members of Session.

Compeared spontaneously William Houston and Margaret Mitchell, spouses, acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication, and expressing their sorrow for this their irregularity.

They were by order of the Session rebuked by the Moderator for said offence and absolved from the scandal. Tho Miller, Minister.

Cumnock 6th July 1807

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

Compeared spontaneously Agnes Wilson servant to Mr McVitie, innkeeper in Cumnock acknowledged herself with child in uncleanness and having been seriously exhorted and interrogated who is the father declared that John Sutherland, son of George Sutherland shoemaker in Cumnock is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed about Martinmass last.

There was produced a letter directed to the Minister the tenor of which follows

“Cumnock 6th July 1807

Rev Sir

I hereby acknowledge that I am the father of Agnes Wilson’s child as witness my hand.

Signed John Sutherland”

She was suitably exhorted by the Moderator and dismissed for the present.

Tho Miller, Minister.

Cumnock 22nd July 1807

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and John Baird, William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Agnes Arthur in Boreland Smithy acknowledged herself with child in fornication and having been seriously exhorted by the Moderator to tell the truth, and interrogated who is the father declared that Jamed McGlashan, son of Alexander McGlashan innkeeper in the village of Cumnock is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed on the second Cumnock Martinmas Thursday last in his father’s house, that she informed him of this her situation to which he made no reply. That she was servant to his father at the time but left said service a little thereafter. This she declares is the truth. Declares she cannot write and therefore giving the pen to Dr Miller desires him to sign this her declaration for her. Tho Miller.

She is summoned apud acta to compear before this Session on Sabbath the 2nd of August against which meeting the officer is ordered to cite said James McGlashan to compear.

Cumnock 2nd August 1807

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

The officer called the said Agnes Arthur and James McGlashan mentioned in last minute.

Agnes Arthur compeared and the at the same time compeared James McGlashan who having heard the preceding minutes read over candidly acknowledged the truth of her accusation. Tho Miller.

Cumnock 31st August 1807

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator Dr Miller and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously James Crichton in this village acknowledged himself guilty of antenuptial fornication with Margaret Stevenson his spouse. He was rebuked for this his acknowledged crime, and by order of Session absolved from the scandal thereof. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 13th November 1807

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and the other members of Session.

William Galbreath, one of the members of this Session was unanimously chosen Elder to attend Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 29th March 1808

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator Dr Miller and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Margaret Stevenson in this village acknowledged that she had been guilty of antenuptial fornication with James Crichton her husband. She was rebuked for this her acknowledged crime and by order of this Session absolved from the scandal thereof.

Same day compeared spontaneously Mary Latta daughter of Thomas Latta in this village acknowledged herself with child in fornication, and having been seriously exhorted, and interrogated declared that Duncan Campbell, wright in Kilmarnock is the father of her child.

Being if ever she had informed said Duncan Campbell of this her situation she declared that she had duly informed him and in evidence of this she produced to the Session a letter she lately received from him the tenor of which follows:

“Kilmarnock 22nd 1808 (sic)

This is to inform you that I am willing to answer the Church Rules as soon as I am called for, as I own myself to be the father of your child. No more.

(signed) Duncan Campbell.” Tho Miller, Minister

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Cumnock 19th June 1808

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

Compeared spontaneously Duncan Campbell, wright in Kilmarnock, the young man whom Mary Latta in this village accused before this Session on the 29th March last as the father of her child as the minutes of that date fully bear, and in consideration of his letter to said Mary Latta dated the 22nd March last in which he acknowledged himself the father of her child he now also declares before this meeting of Session that he still adheres to said acknowledgement and craves to be taken under discipline for this offence as soon as convenient. The Session order him to be rebuked pro primo for his scandal this afternoon before the congregation in the usual place of appearance.

Cumnock 2nd October 1808

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

Compeared spontaneously John Crichton, mason in this village and Elizabeth McCowan spouses acknowledged there having been guilty of antenuptial fornication ad produced a letter from the Revd Mr Lindsay, Minister of Auchinleck, the parish in which the guilt was committed allowing them to be taken under discipline here as they have late taken up their residence in this parish. They were in presence of Session rebuked for this their acknowledged crime and absolved from the scandal thereof. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 23rd October 1808

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

Compeared spontaneously Margaret Lammie late servant to Robert Shankland in Bowhouse of this parish, acknowledged that she brought forth a child in fornication on the ninth day of September last, and having been solemnly exhorted to be ingenious in her declaration as to who is the father of said child and interrogated declared that John Gemmel, son of deceased George Gemmel and Margaret Pearson in this village is the father of her child. And that she duly informed him of her situation prior to the birth of the child, and obtained from him a letter which she now produced to the Session the tenor of which follows

“Cumnock may 13th 1808

This is to certify that bearer hereof Margaret Lamby says that she is with child to me, which I don't deny if it come to my time, I shall do everything for it and her.

I am (signed) John Gemmel”

The said Margaret Lammie further acknowledged that this is to her a relapse into fornication. She having ad a child in fornication in the parish of Auchinleck and promises to produce evidence of her being absolved from said scandal. She was suitably exhorted and dismissed pro tempore.

Tho Miller, Minister.

Same day William Galbreath one of the members of Session was unanimously continued Elder to attend Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year.

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Cumnock 20th November 1808

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members.

Compeared spontaneously John McCowan son of John McCowan in Burnwelltrees and acknowledged himself to have been guilty of fornication with Janet McLatchie late servant to his brother William McCowan in Caponacre and craved of the Session to be taken under discipline when they shall find convenient. Tho Miller, Minister

Cumnock 11th December 1808

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and William Galbreath, John Baird and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Mary Wilson daughter of Isabel Pearson in ?Crichton* now acknowledge herself with child and having been seriously exhorted declared that David Stewart in Ward is the father of her child., that the guilt was committed on the first of August last, that she had informed him of this her situation and he did not then refuse her charge. And this is the truth. (signed) Mary Wilson.

Said Mary Wilson was suitably exhorted by the Moderator and summoned apud acta to compear before this Session next Lord's Day to which meeting of Session the officer is ordered to cite said David Stewart to compear. Tho Miller, Moderator

**Crichton – Possibly Crichton Row, which appears in some later documents*

Cumnock 18th December 1808

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and David Welsh, William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously John Macarvail and Agnes Bryce spouses in this village acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and expressed their sorrow for this offence. They were seriously admonished and rebuked and by order of Session absolved from the scandal of this their acknowledged crime.

Same day compeared Mary Wilson and David Stewart in Ward in consequence of citation.

The minutes of last sederunt having been read over in presence of them both and the said Mary Wilson having been interrogated if she still adhered to her said declaration therein emitted declared that she still adhered to her said declaration.

Said David Stewart having been seriously exhorted and interrogated whether he acknowledged said charge declared that he is entirely innocent of the crime laid to his charge & that she herself never informed him of her situation but by means of her mother who he acknowledges sometime ago informed him of her situation but cannot recollect upon what particular day.

The session delay the farther consideration of this affair to some future opportunity.

Cumnock 25th December 1808

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and William Galbreath, John Baird and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Christian Thomson a widow in this village acknowledged herself to be with child in fornication & having being seriously exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration declared

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that James McMillan weaver, son of John McMillan taylor in Cumnock is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed under night in the inclosure presently possessed by Mr Taylor, lately possessed by Hugh McKerrow at the south of the Mill Lade*. That she repeatedly sent for him in order to inform him of her situation but that he never would come in her presence and that in consequence of this she had never had in her power to inform him. That the guilt was committed in the month of May last. That at one time she spoke to him as he went past her house wishing to inform him of her situation but that he would not so much as speak to her. And this is the truth. Declares she cannot write and therefore desires the Moderator to this her declaration for her. Tho Miller.

Compeared at same time James McMillan to whom the above declaration was read and having been seriously exhorted and interrogated as to the truth of it he positively denied the charge in toto by declaring that he never had any criminal correspondence with said Christian Thomson.

She being farther interrogated as to circumstances declared that on the evening when the guilt was committed she and James McMillan, accompanied by Annabel McLatchie, daughter of William McLatchie collier in Cumnock and William Thomson stockingmaker, brother to the said Christian Thomson were coming up from the Green Miln to the village of Cumnock. That the said Annabell went a little before them and the said William Thomson was a little behind them, that after having thus separated from them the guilt as above stated was committed by them in the abovementioned place, and that thereafter James McMillan joined the company of her said brother William Thomson, which two went in company to the village of Cumnock together as her brother informed her.

The Session order their officer to cite William Thomsob and Annabell McLatchie abovementioned to compear before this Session on Monday the 23rd day of January 1809, which meeting the said parties concerned are also summoned apud acta to attend. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 23rd January 1809

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared Christian Thomson & James McMillan mentioned in last minutes. She the said Christian Thomson continuing to accuse the said James McMillan & he the said James McMillan continuing to refuse her accusation, whereupon she the said Christian Thomson desired Annabell McLatchie to be called in to declare what she knows of this affair.

Annabell McLatchie being called compeared and declared that sometime last ware* she together with James McMillan and Christian Thomson having been in the carding mill belonging to James Crawford & Co at a late hour they all three left said mill together that immediately they came out of the mill she and James McMillan came away together whilst Christian fell behind, that she the deponent and

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he came up together to the hedge which separates the holm lately possessed by Hugh McKerrow and the little inclosure possessed by Mr Taylor, that at that hedge James McMillan fell behind her and she the deponent came through to Cumnock and knew not where James McMillan went after parting from her at said hedge. And this is the truth so far as she known, declares she cannot write and desires the Moderator to sign this her declaration for her. Tho Miller, Moderator

**ware - springtime*

James McMillan having been interrogated whether he had any question to put to the above witness before her evidence was closed declared that he had no question whatever to put to her as he acknowledged the truth of all that she the said Annabell McLatchie has declared as above attested.

Compeared William Thomson brother to the said Christian Thomson who being interrogated at the desire of James McMillan if he recollects whether agreeable to the declaration formerly emitted by Christian Thomson he the said William Thomson came into Cumnock Village on their leaving the Millas above stated together with or in the company with the said James McMillan or not, declares that he remained a little while in the Miln after the above persons had left and afterwards came home by himself. Being farther interrogated by the Session as to what he knows relative to this affair, declares that he recollects the three abovementioned persons leaving the Miln together, and walking together towards Cumnock upon the footpath at the side of the Miln lade, but knows no more of them having remained sometime in the Miln. And this is the truth.

(signed) William Thomson

The Session delay the farther consideration of this affair for the present.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 31st Jan 1809

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and David Welsh, William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared upon citation James McLelland and Sibyl Baird, servants at the manse. She being questioned acknowledged herself to be with child and elected James McLelland her fellow servant as the father of her child. The same being intimated to him he acknowledged the truth of it.

They were suitably exhorted upon their acknowledgement and this being a case of adultery they were summoned apud acta to compear before the Presbytery of Air upon tomorrow three weeks being the twenty second day of February next.

Cumnock 23rd February 1809

James McLelland and Sybil Baird mentioned in last minutes compeared before the Presbytery of Air on the 22nd of this month conform to citation as appears from an extract from the minutes of Pesbytery of that date the tenor of which follows

“Air the 22nd of February 1809 on which day the Pesbytery of Air met and constituted.

Inter alia – Minutes of the Kirk Session of Old Cumnock respecting James McClelland and Sybil Baird both in that parish as guilty of adultery were produced and read. Said James McLelland and Sybil Baird being summonsd apud acta to this days meeting were called, compeared. They were rebuked and remitted to the Kirk Session of Cumnock who are to proceed against them according to the rules of the Church.

Extracted by (signed) William Peebles, Clerk”

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Cumnock 19th March 1809

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and all the members of Session.

Compeared in consequence of the petition of the Kirk Session of New Cumnock to that effect Robert McMillan and Agnes McWhirtor spouses in New Cumnock acknowledged themselves to have been guilty of antenuptial fornication and craving to be taken under discipline for this their crime.

They (were) seriously exhorted, rebuked and by order of the Session absolved from the scandal.

Cumnock 29th October 1809

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

William Simson one of their number was unanimously elected Elder to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year.

Cumnock 29th April 1810

(This date is wrong or out of place in the volume. It is possibly 29th March.)

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and William Galbreath, John Baird and William Simson Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Jean Bell, late servant to John Gemmel in Boreland Mains acknowledged that she had lately brought forth a child in fornication and having been exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration as to who is the father of said child declared that George Gemmel son of said John Gemmel in Borland Mains is the father of said child, that she long ago informed him of this and that he the said George Gemmel acknowledged the truth of this accusation. In evidence of his acknowledgement she the said Jean Bell now produced a letter signed by said George Gemmel and addressed to the Revd Dr Miller the tenor of which follows.

“Rev Sir

I herby acknowledge to you and to the other members of the Kirk Session of Cumnock that I am the father of the child which Jean Bell the bearer lately brought forth, and wish to be taken under discipline for this my fault as soon as convenient for you and the Session to admit me.

I am, Revd Sir, your most obedient humble servant.

Signed George Gemmel

Dated Borland Mains, 7th April 1810.”

The said Jean Bell was suitably exhorted and dismissed. Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock 15th April 1810

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson Elders.

Compeared ultroneously Ann Craig, daughter of William Craig in Woodhead acknowledged herself with child and having been seriously exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration that John Glendoning mason in Auchinleck is the father of her child, that guilt was committed sometime last autumn whist she was servant to Thomas Pearson in Glesnock Lots and whilst he was working at the buildings at Creoch in Parish of New Cumnock. That she told him of her situation, and that he promised to marry her, that she gave him this intelligence about the beginning of

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Harvest last. Being farther interrogated as to the precise time when she first had any criminal correspondence with him she declares that it was on the night immediately preceding Auchinleck last lamb fair at Glasnock Lots, under night., declares that this is the truth as far as she now recollects. Declares she cannot write and therefore asks the Moderator to sign this her declaration for her. Tho Miller, Moderator.

She was suitably admonished and exhorted by the moderator.

The Session order their Clerk to write to the Revd Mr Lindsay and other members of the Kirk Session of Auchinleck desiring them to cause the above John Glendoning to be cited to compear before this Session next Sabbath to which meeting the said Anne Craig is cited apud acta to compear.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 22nd April 1810

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson Elders.

Compeared the abovementioned Anne Craig & John Glendoning both mentioned in last minutes. Anne Craig declared her adherence to her former declaration. John Glendoning being called, the former minutes were read over to him upon which he denied the charge declaring that he never was in company with the said Anne Craig but when others were along with them.

Anne Craig craved that her father who now is attending may be called in in order that he may inform the Session what conversation took place betwixt him and the said John Glendoning.

The session granted her request upon which William Craig her father was called in and being interrogated as to said conversation declared that the said John Glendoning in a conversation he had with him in the Broadwood Road in presence of Hugh McWhirter weaver in Auchinleck acknowledged he was guilty with Anne Craig and said that if the child was his it should be born next month, meaning thereby this current month of April, as that conversation took place in the month of March last.

Ann Craig being asked if she can produce evidence of the said John Glendoning having been in her company, she desires that Janet Pearson, daughter of James Pearson in Glasnock Lots and Thomas Pearson also in Glasnock Lots, and John Mitchel in Roseburn may be cited to declare to the Session what they know as to she and the said John Gledoning having been in company privately together.

The Session grant this her request & order their officer to cite the said Janet Pearson, Thomas Pearson and John Mitchell to compear before this Session on Friday the 27th of this month to which meeting the parties are summoned apud acta to compear.

John Glendoning also craves that William Miller, labourer at Benston limeworks may be cited to compear at said Session. The Session order him also to be cited as craved. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 27th April 1810

This evening Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and William Galbreath, John Baird and William Simson Elders.

Compeared Anne Craig and John Glendoning mentioned in last minutes, ~~she continuing to accuse and he continuing to refuse the accusation formerly minuted.~~

Anne Craig being interrogated is she still accuses John Glendoning as the father of her child she declares that she still accuses him as the father of her child.

John Glendoning being interrogated if he still continues to refuse being guilty with said Anne Craig he now candidly acknowledges that he was guilty of fornication with her, according to the best of his recollection about the beginning of July last in Thomas Pearson's barn and this is the truth. (signed) John Glendinning Tho Miller, Moderator.

In consequence of the above candid acknowledgement on the part of John Glendoning the Session find the charge of Anne Craig in so far true. The parties were suitably exhorted and dismissed.

Tho Miller, Minister.

Cumnock 1st July 1810

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and all the other members of Session.

Compeared Spontaneously Alexander McCowan and Barbara Young, spouses in this village and acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication, expressing their sorrow of this their irregularity and begging to be rebuked and absolved for the scandal thereof. They were rebuked for this their acknowledged transgression and by order of the Session absolved from the scandal thereof conform to their request. Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock 22nd July 1810

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Agnes Tweedy, late servant to David Aird in Horsecleugh, acknowledged that she lately brought forth a child in fornication to John Hamilton late servant in Burnside of Shankston., to the truth of which she lately made Oath before the Justices of the Peace of this district and petitioned the Session to be taken upon discipline as soon as convenient for them for this her offence, all which is truth. Declares she cannot write and desires the Moderator to sign this for her. Tho Miller, Moderator.

She is ordered to appear to be rebuked pro primo next Lord's day in the afternoon.

Cumnock 29th August 1810

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Adam Connel husband to Helen Samson in this village, acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and expressed his sorrow for his offence and craved that he might be rebuked and absolved from the scandal

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of this his irregularity. He was rebuked and absolved accordingly.

Cumnock 11th November 1810

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Thomas Miller Moderator and John Baird, William Galbreath and William Simson Elders.

John Baird, one of the members of the Session was unanimously chosen Elder to attend Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year. Tho Miller.

Cumnock 16th December 1810

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and all the other members of Session.

Compeared spontaneously Margaret McMicken late servant to Thomas Pearson in Shields acknowledged herself with child in fornication and having been seriously exhorted to be ingenuous in her declaration as to who is the father and interrogated declares that John Samson son of John Samson in Glaisnock Lots is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed several weeks before Whitsunday last, that she informed him of this her situation sometime ago, and that he declared to her that is she would make Oath that he is the father he would acknowledge the child and this is the truth. Declares she cannot write and desires the Moderator to sign this for her. Tho Miller

She was seriously exhorted and dismissed.

The Session advise her to cite said John Samson before the Justices of this District first opportunity as he belongs to the ?? Baighar Society

Cumnock 20th January 1811

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Thomas Miller Moderator and John Baird, William Galbreath and William Simson Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Agnes Haistings, sister to John Haistings in Mosshouse in Glaisnocklands and previously residing there with her said brother acknowledged that she was with child and having been seriously exhorted and interrogated declared that Matthew Morison at present servant to her said brother is the father of her child., that the guilt was committed at Mosshouse about ten days after Whitsunday last Old Stile, that she has repeatedly informed him of this her situation, and that he made very little reply to her. And this is the truth, declares she cannot write and therefore gives the pen into the hands of the Moderator request him to sign this her declaration for her.

Tho Miller, Minister.

She was suitably exhorted, they order the said Matthew Morison to be cited to compear before this Session next Lords Day to answer to the above accusation.

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Cumnock 27th January 1811

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and (*blank space*)

The officer reported that he summoned Matthew Morison in Mosshouse to attend this meeting of session conform to the last sederunt.

Cumnock 17th February 1811

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and (*blank space*)

Compeared spontaneously William Black and Agnes Rammage spouses acknowledged themselves to have been guilty of the sin of antenuptial fornication and expressed their sorrow for this their irregularity. They were rebuked for this their acknowledged fault and absolved from the scandal.

Tho Miller, Minister.

Cumnock 3^d March 1811

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Jean Gibson servant to James Miller formerly in Whitesmuir and now in this village acknowledged herself with child in fornication and having been seriously exhorted and interrogated declared that Alexander Mitchel shoemaker in this village is the father of her child, that she has already informed him of this her situation, and that this is the truth. Jean Gibson (her mark)

Tho Miller.

The Session order their officer to summon Alexander Mitchell to compear before this Session on Wednesday first at midday at said first meeting Jane Gibson is summoned apud acta to compear.
Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 6th March 1811

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson Elders.

Compeared Jean Gibson mentioned in last minute to whom her declaration emitted in last minute was read over, and having been solemnly exhorted, and interrogated whither she still adhered to the declaration there given she declared that she has no other person to give it to but to the said Alexander Mitchell, that the guilt was committed in his own house a little before Whitsunday last.

Compeared Alexander Mitchell upon citation, and the declaration of the said Jean Gibson having been read to him and he having been seriously exhorted and interrogated thereupon he denies his ever having had any criminal correspondence with her the said Jean Gibson, and particularly avers that neither at the time she mentions nor at any other time has he had any criminal intercourse with her. He farther asserts that that he will bring proof that she had declared in presence of Euphemia Lennox wife of Robert Allan and Mareon Culbertson wife of John Patrick weaver in Cumnock that she had no other person to accuse as the father of her child but James Miller the man with whom she now lives, and therefore craves the

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The Session to cause their officer to cite both of them before them at his instance as soon as convenient.

the Session accordingly grant his request and order their officer to summon the above persons viz Euphemia Lenox wife of Robert Allan and Mareon Culbertson wife of John Patrick to compear before this Session upon Friday next at midday to declare what they may know as to this matter. To which meeting of Session the said Jean Gibson and Alexander Mitchell are now summoned apud acta to compear.

Concluded with prayer.

Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock 8th March 1811

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson Elders.

The officer reported that he duly summoned Euphemia Lenox and Marion Culbertson mentioned in last minutes ordered.

Compeared Mareon Culbertson, wife of John Patrick weaver in Cumnock, aged about thirty eight years of age, who being purged of malice declares that she recollects Jean Gibson to have come into her house a few days before the first meeting of Session on this affair, that she recollects her to have said that she was with child and that she had no other person to give it to but the man with whom she lives, thereby meaning as the witness apprehended James Miller, and that to the best of her, the witness's recollection, she the said Jean Gibson reported the said declaration. Farther declares that Jean Gibson told her at the time that he (meaning by he the person James Miller with whom she resides) had in a conversation with her the preceeding night advised her to give the child of whom she is pregnant either to William Crichton at Dumfries House or to Alexander Mitchell shoemaker in Cumnock.

Further recollects that Jean Gibson said to her the deponent as she had seen him only twice in James Miller's house, James Miller having been present in the house both times, how could she give the child to Alexander Mitchell. That all this is the truth. (signed) Marion Culbertson, Tho Miller.

Compeared Euphemia Lenox, wife of Robert Allan in Cumnock aged about thirty years or thereby who being purged of malice etc declares that she recollects that having gone into the house of John Patrick weaver in the village a few days before the first Session on this affair she there saw Jean Gibson sitting in an elbow chair crying, that Marion Culbertson the preceeding witness informed her that she was with child to James Miller and that he Miller had advised her to give the child to some other person. Upon hearing which the witness from sympathising with the situation of the said Jean Gibson had said to her that she ought by all means to give the child to the true father, since giving it to any other person would be a very great aggravation of her crime. In consequence of this the said Jean Gibson said no no, I have no person else to give it to and this is truth. (signed) Euphemia Lenox, Tho Miller.

The Session having now taken this affair into their consideration assolzie Alexander Mitchell, and appoint their Moderator to rebuke Jean Gibson as having accused wrongeously the above Alexander Mitchell as the father of her child.

She was rebuked accordingly and dismissed.

Concluded with prayer.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 21st April 1811

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Peter McAllum and Janet Sloan spouses acknowledged themselves to have been guilty of antenuptial fornication and testifying their sorrow for this their offence.

They were suitable exhorted and rebuked by the Moderator, and absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer.

Cumnock 5th May 1811

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and all the Elders.

John Baird one of their number is reelected Elder to attend Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year.

Compeared spontaneously John Patrick shoemaker in Cumnock and Janet Wilson spouses acknowledged themselves to have been irregularly married several years ago and acknowledge themselves married persons, and determined to live together as such till separated by death. They were rebuked for this their irregularity and suitably exhorted and dismissed.

Cumnock 1st September 1811

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson Elders.

Compeared spontaneously James McCall and Barbara Orr spouses in Skirring, acknowledged that they were guilty of antenuptial fornication and expressed their sorrow for this their irregularity.

They were suitably exhorted and rebuked for this their acknowledged offence and absolved from the scandal thereof.

The officer reported that by order of the Session he duly cited Jean Craig presently residing in in the Blue Tower in this Village to compear this day before this meeting of Session.

Jean Craig being called upon Session by the officer did not compear. The officer is ordered to summon her pro secundo to compear before this Session next Lords Day. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 8th September 1811

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Reverend Dr Miller Moderator and John Baird, William Galbreath and William Simson Elders.

Compeared in consequence of citation pro secundo Jean Craig in this village, acknowledged that she is with child in fornication, and having been seriously exhorted and interrogated who is the father declined giving any answer at present. The Session considering that this is a trilapse to her she was summoned to appear before the Presby of Ayr at Ayr upon Wednesday the (blank) day of (blank) next.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock 10th November 1811

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and John Baird, William Galbreath and William Simson Elders.

John Baird one of the members of Session was unanimously chosen Elder to attend the Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 17th November 1811

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson Elders.

Compeared spontaneously James Whyte and Jean McCall spouses in the village and William Goldie and Jean Templeton spouses also in the village, acknowledged their having been guilty of antenuptial fornication and expressed their sorrow for this their irregularity.

They were by order of the Session rebuked for this their irregularity and absolved from the scandal.

Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 19th April 1812

Session met & being constituted. Sederunt the Minister, William Galbreath and John Beard, Elders.

Compeared ultroneously Margaret Reid serving with James Swan in Darmalloch, & acknowledged herself to be with child in fornication, & being exhorted to be ingenuous in delating the true father of her child she said that James Fergusson, day labourer, living in Knocktirrow

(There appear to be pages missing from the volume at this point. The writing is different on the facing page and the next dated entry is more than 18 months after this one. The paragraph below probably doesn't refer to Margaret Reid, above.)

father of her child, which she said although she could she would not now do consider her case to be that of an adultress and hereby authorise the minister to summon her to appear before the first meeting of Presbytery to be held in Air the (blank) day of (blank).

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 14th November 1813

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and John Baird, William Galbreath and William Simson Elders.

William Galbreath one of their number was unanimously chosen elder to attend Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 19th December 1813

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and all the other members of Session.

Compeared spontaneously Robert McClatchie and Jean Hunter spouses, acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication, expressed their sorrow for this their irregularity and petitioned the Session to be absolved from the scandal thereof.

They were suitably exhorted, and rebuked for and absolved from the scandal of this their acknowledged fault.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator

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Cumnock 30th January 1814

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and John Baird, William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously James Findlay and Janet Dick, spouses, and John Jamieson and Christian Rammage spouses , acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and testifying their repentance for this their irregularity.

They were rebuked by the Moderator & by order of the Session absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer, Tho Miller, moderator.

Cumnock 24th February 1814

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and John Baird, William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Hans Campbell, weaver in Cumnock, acknowledged himself guilty of antenuptial fornication with Janet Craig his wife, expressed his sorrow for that sin and petitioned the Session to be absolved from the scandal thereof. He was rebuked, and by order of the Session was absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Minister.

Cumnock 24th April 1814

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and John Baird, William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously George Goldie and Agnes Miller spouses and Thomas Andrew and Anne Torrance also spouses, acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craved of the Session to be absolved from the scandal of this their fault. They were rebuked for this their acknowledged irregularity, and by order of the Session absolved from the scandal thereof.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

(The following entries are out of order in the volume, and are the missing pages from May 1812)

Same day compeared spontaneously Jean Ross, daughter of Gilbert Ross, gardener at Dumfries House, acknowledged herself with child in fornication, and having been seriously exhorted to be ingenuous and interrogated, declared that William Scot, son of John Scot, wright near Dumfries is the father of her child. That she has already informed the said William Scott of this her condistion before witnesses and that he has acknowledged the truth of her accusation. (signed) Jean Ross, Tho Miller

The Session order their officer to cite the said William Scot to compear before them on the evening of Sabbath the thirty first day of this current month to which meeting of Session the said Jean Ross is cite apud acta to compear. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 31st May 1812

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and all the members of Session.

William Scott and Jean Ross mentioned in last minute though duly cited and called by the officer did not compear.

The Clerk produced a letter directed to the Moderator from William Scott the tenor of which follows

“Revd Sir,

For the satisfaction of you and of the other members of the Session of Cumnock I hereby acknowledge the truth of Jean Rosses accusation and shall submit to the discipline to which this my misconduct subjects me when you shall find convenient.

I am, Revd Sir, your most obedient servant.

Signed William Scott

Dumfries House, 30th May 1812”

The Session accept of this letter as an ample acknowledgement on the part of William Scott to Jean Rosses charge, and allow him and her to be taken upon discipline at convenience, and order his letter to be kept in relentis.

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Cumnock 7th June 1812

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and William Galbreath, John Baird and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared ultroneously Margaret Craig daughter of William Craig in Woodhead. Acknowledged herself with child, and having been seriously exhorted to be ingenuous & interrogated declared that Hugh Hunter, son of Hugh Hunter miller in Green Miln is the father of her child, that the guilt was committed (blank space)

That she informed him of this her situation and that he acknowledged to her the truth of the charge, declares she cannot write and therefore desires the Moderator to sign this her declaration for her. Tho Miller.

The Session order their officer to cite said Hugh Hunter to compear before this Session on Tuesday the thirtieth of this current month to which meeting of Session said Margaret Craig is summoned apud acta to appear.

Cumnock 30th June 1812

Session met in the schoolhouse and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared Margaret Craig mentioned in last minute. Hugh Hunter was duly cited by the officer but did not compear.

Margaret Craig's accusation of Hugh Hunter as contained in last minute was read over to her and she being interrogated if she adheres to the same she declared that she still adheres to said accusation.

The said Hugh Hunter not compearing now, the officer is ordered to summon him pro secundo to compear before them on Sabbath first, the fifth day of July next to which meeting said Margaret Craig is summoned apud acta to compear.

Tho Miller Moderator.

(the next entry is out of place on the volume and is a continuation of the allegation on page 134 of 19th April by Margaret Reid against James Ferguson.)

is the father of her child & that the guilt was committed in Darmalloch about five or six weeks before last Martinmass, that she had informed him said Ferguson of her being with child & that his answer was that he would neither father her no any other woman's child and that this conversation between them took place eight days ago at Knocktirrow & that she has not seen him since, & that this is the truth and declares she cannot write and desires the Moderator to sign this her declaration for her. Tho Miller.

The Session order their officer to cite the said James Fergusson to compear before them on the evening of Sabbath the 26th day of April current which meeting of Session said Margaret Reid is summoned apud acta to attend.

Cumnock 26th April 1812

Session met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared Margaret Reid and James Ferguson mentioned in last minute in consequence of citation.

The minutes of last sederunt having been read to them, and Margaret Reid having been interrogated if she now adheres to the accusation of James Ferguson as the father of her child as there stated she declares that she still adheres to said accusation.

James Ferguson having been seriously exhorted to tell the truth and interrogated denied all criminal intercourse with the said Margaret Reed, asserting that he never was in company with her during his life except as far as he can now recollect once either in the end of May or beginning of June last when he recollects that he and she walked together on the public road from Cumnock to Darmulloch, he being on his way to lift cattle, that he never was at any other time in company with her.

Margaret Reid being farther interrogated says that she will bring evidence of James Fergusson and she having been in company in the house of John Morison Innkeeper in Cumnock

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about five or six weeks before Martinmass last, that he and she drank together in that house and that the wife of said John Morison spoke to them both as they went into the room, that after remaining in the house for a short time they went out and walked together to Darmalloch and that

he was seen there that night, that he had criminal correspondence with her at that time. She farther added in confirmation of this declaration that Maxwell McMillan wife of William Robertson, shoemaker in Cumnock saw James Ferguson and her go into John Morisons's house on the abovementioned night.

James Ferguson being interrogated as to the above circumstances says he never was with her in the house of John Morison in his life – denying her accusation in toto declares he cannot write and therefore desires the moderator to sign this for him. Tho Miller, Moderator.

The Session taking this matter into consideration were unanimously of opinion that Margaret Reid should summon James Fergusson before the first justice court to be held in this place upon Monday the fourth day of May next, where she may well have an opportunity of having any witness she may adduce in confirmation of her accusation of James Ferguson examined upon Oath, till which time the Session delay further consideration of this affair.

Cumnock 10th May 1812

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and John Baird, William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

John Baird, one of the members of Session was unanimously reelected Elder to attend Presbytery and Session during the ensuing half year. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 17th May 1812

Session being met and constituted this day. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared ultroneously Thomas Rammage and Jean Lenox spouses, acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication, and having been seriously exhorted and rebuked for this their irregularity were by order of Session absolved from the scandal.

Same day

(the next page is out of order)

Cumnock 5th July 1812

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and John Baird, William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Margaret Craig mentioned in last minute compeared in consequence of citation.

Hugh Hunter in Green Miln was duly called by the officer but did not compear. The Moderator produced to the Session a letter which he received from said Hugh Hunter, the tenor whereof follows.

“Revd Sir,

I hereby acknowledge to you and the other members of the Kirk Session of Cumnock that I was guilty of fornication with Margaret Craig, daughter of William Craig in Woodhead, and am willing to submit to the discipline of the Church for this irregularity when most convenient for you and your Session.

I am, Revd Sir, your most obedient servant.

(signed) Hugh Hunter”

The Session consider this letter of Hugh Hunter as a sufficient acknowledgement of his guilt, and allow him and Margaret Craig to be taken upon discipline at convenience.

Their Clerk is ordered to keep said letter in relentis.

Tho Miller.

Cumnock 11th October 1812

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared ultroneously James Cristie and Jean McCowan spouses, acknowledged themselves to have been guilty of antenuptial fornication and expressing their sorrow and repentance for this their irregularity and petitioning to be absolved from the scandal of this offence.

They were by order of Session rebuked for this their irregular conduct and absolved from the scandal.

Cumnock 8th November 1812

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and all the other members of Session.

John Baird was unanimously chosen Elder to attend Presbytery and Synod for the ensuing half year.

Cumnock 21st February 1813

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared ultroneously John Connel junior in Blackfauld acknowledged that he was guilty of antenuptial fornication with Janet Vallance his

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his wife and expressed his sorrow and repentance for this his irregularity, and begged to be absolved from the scandal thereof. He was by order of Session rebuked and absolved accordingly.

Cumnock 16th August 1813

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

The Session having been informed that Mary Brown servant to John Howat, Innkeeper in this village is reported to be with child, ordered their officer to summon her to appear before this meeting of Session.

He notified that he had duly done so by delivering her a written citation to that effect.

Mary Brown being called did not compear. The Session therefore order their officer to summon her pro secundo to attend a meeting of this Session to be held here on Friday the twentieth current at six o'clock in the evening.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Minister

Cumnock 20th August 1813

This day Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared in consequence of citation pro secundo Mary Brown in this village acknowledged herself to be with child but declines for the present mentioning who is the father.

She was suitably exhorted and for the present dismissed.

The Session taking into consideration her continuing obstinately to refuse delating the

(the remainder of this entry is on page 134, where pages in the volume have been mixed up.

father of her child, which she said although she could she would not now do consider her case to be that of an adultress and hereby authorise the minister to summon her to appear before the first meeting of Presbytery to be held in Air the (blank) day of (blank).

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.)

Cumnock 26th July 1814

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and John Baird, William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously Thomas Wilson, collier in this Village, acknowledged that some years ago was guilty of fornication with Jean Craig. He was Sessionally rebuked and absolved upon the profession of his repentance and absolved from the scandal.

Same day compeared William Kirkland surgeon in this village and Elizabeth Murray spouses acknowledged that they were irregularly married at Rutherglen in the month of November eighteen hundred and thirteen years.

Upon being questioned by the Session if they adhered to one another as man and wife declared they did, upon which they were rebuked for their irregular conduct & dismissed. While in testimony of their adherence in future to one another as man and wife they sign this minute before the Session as witness their subscribers. (signed) William Kirkland Eliza Murray.

Cumnock 20th November 1814

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and all the Elders.

Compeared spontaneously William Crichton & Jean Gibson spouses and James McClatchie and Anne Smith spouses, acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craved to be taken under discipline for this their crime.

They were rebuked by the moderator for this their irregularity, and absolved from the scandal and dismissed.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

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Cumnock 4th December 1814

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and John Baird, William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously John Fergusson junior in this village and acknowledged himself to have been guilty of fornication with Mary Ritchie an unmarried woman in parish of Mearns and craved of this Session to be taken under discipline for this his crime.

The Session grant his request and order him to appear for the first time to be rebuked next Lord's day before this Congregation. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock (no date)

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Mr Lewis Balfour Minister of Sorn, Moderator and John Baird, William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

Compeared spontaneously William Kerr shoemaker and (blank) McCreeroch spouses in this village, acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and prayed to be taken under discipline for this their misconduct.

They were rebuked and absolved from the scandal.

Tho Miller, Moderator

Cumnock (no date)

(The following extract from the Minutes of the Kirk Session of Kirkconnel in Presbytery of Penpont lately received by Dr Miller is by order of Session here inserted.

“Kirkconnel Kirk 26th February 1815

Post precis Sederunt the Kirk Session of Kirkconnel.

Compeared Violate Hair, late servant to William McCowan Carrier Old Cumnock and being seriously admonished to a sincere and ingenuous confession and interrogated acknowledged that she is with child in uncleanness and that James McCowan, late servant to the above William McCowan was guilty with her and is the father of the child of which she is pregnant., this being read over to her she adhered to it as truth as she shall answer in the sight of God and declaring she could not write gave the pen to the moderator to subscribe for her.

(sic subscribitur) James Richardson, Moderator

Whereupon she was exhorted in the usual manner, and declared to be debarred from sealing Ordinances* till the scandal be purged agreeably to the rules of the church.

The Session considering that this is a case which belongs to the Kirk Session of O.Cumnock appoint their Clerk to send an extract of this minute to the Moderator of said Session.

Extracted from the minutes of Session by

(sic subscribitur) Andrew M Y Turner, Session Clerk.”

The Session order James McCowan to be summoned to compear before them on Sabbath the 26th March 1815.

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Cumnock 28th March 1815

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Moderator and William Galbreath and William Simson, Elders.

The officer reported that he had duly cited James McCowan to compear this day before this meeting of Session. James McCowan being called did not compear but there was produced from him by the Clerk a letter addressed to the Moderator the tenor whereof follows.

“Revd Sir,

I hereby acknowledge that I am the father of Violate Hair’s child, and hope that you and the other members of Session will accept this acknowledgement instead of my personal compearance.

I am, Revd Sir, your most obedient servant,

(signed) James McCowan”

The Session accept of this as a full and ample acknowledgement on the part of James McCowan of his being the father of Violate Hair’s child, and order the letter which is now given to their Clerk to be kept in relentis.

Cumnock 2nd April 1815

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller and the other members.

Compeared spontaneously David Lenox and Elizabeth Templeton spouses, acknowledge themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and craved to be taken under discipline for this their irregularity. They were rebuked and absolved from the scandal accordingly by order of the Session.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator.

Cumnock 9th April 1815

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and John Baird, William Galbreath and William Simson Elders.

Compeared spontaneously John Mitchell and Marion Smith spouses acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication, and craved to be taken under discipline for this their acknowledged irregularity. They were seriously exhorted and rebuked for this their fault and by order of the Session absolved from the scandal.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Minister.

Cumnock 28th May 1815

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt the Revd Dr Miller Moderator and John Baird and William Galbreath Elders.

Compeared spontaneously, Alexander Miller and Catherine Ballantyne spouses near Dumfries House acknowledged themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication and praying to be taken under discipline for this their acknowledged crime.

The were by order of Session seriously rebuked and admonished by the Moderator and absolved from the scandal of their fault.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miler, Moderator.

Cumnock 28th May 1815

Session being met and constituted. Sederunt Dr Miller Moderator and John Baird and William Galbreath Elders.

Said William Galbreath was elected Elder to attend meetings of Presbytery & Synod for the current half year, til Aprile next.

Concluded with prayer. Tho Miller, Moderator