

Proceedings of Tیره Kirk Sessions 1767-1774
transcribed by Ann Hentschel

1767

Mar 22 Christian Brown stopped the proclamation of Archibald McKinnon and Catharine McLean, pretending that McKinnon was under promise of marriage to her, but being summoned and compearing before Mr. Charles Campbell, Minister Moderator: Charles McLean, John Bell and Hugh McLean and Elders, she could not produce any valid proof, so the Session ordered the Proclamation to be continued and concluded with prayer.

1769

Dec 31 Christian MacPhail, wife to Peter Sinclair, at present in Lorn, compeared at Ballamhulin, before Minister and Elders, in Session formally met, being summoned on a reports having spread of her being with child in adultery. After prayers being interrogated, she acknowledged the fact, and declared that John Macleod in Mursta was the father of her pregnancy; and that he had carnal dealings with her about the middle of April; and that he, nor any other mortal, had to do with her since. John Macleod obstinately refused the charge and being cited to compear next Sedarunt in the place, refused complying; upon which the Session emerced him in 5 shillings Sterling and ordered the Beadle and Ground-Officer to uplift the fine next day.

1770

Jan 21 Compeared before Minister and Elders, formally met at Ballainhulin, John Macleod in Mursta charged by Christian Macphail, with being the father of her pregnancy; (Vide Dec. 31 supra) . He solemnly denied the guilt, tho' seemingly solicited thereto by her in April last, flying from her arms, after some endearments and freedoms used, like the virtuous Joseph of old:- Credal Appella Judaeus.

Feb 4 Compeared before the Minister and Session, formally met at Kirkapoll, Catharine MacCalman, wife to Farquhar McIlmun, in Hianish, charged with adultery with Niel McDougald, in Scarnish by Niel's oen wife. A precognition was taken from several witnesses present and all of them jointly affirmed they heard expressions uttered by her importing guilt.

Sep 10 Compeared several witnesses, who in their depositions declared they saw not the least signs of pregnancy or obortion with Molly Don at Ballaphelnuis and there-fore she was honourably acquitted at Kirkapoll.

1771

Feb 9 Compeared before minister and elders in Session formally met at Ballamhulin, John Macleod and Christian Macphail for adultery, (Vide Dec 31, Jan). She positively averred as formerly that he was the father of her late pregnancy and he as stiffly denied.

Apr 7 Compeared before the Session formally met at Ballamhulin, John Maclean, John Macfarlane and [blank space with no name recorded] being cited for a riot and profanation of the Sabbath. After several depositions taken they confessed their crime and guilt and in order to make them and others more circumspect and regular for the future they were fined in 5/6 each, 5/- by way of fine and 6d to the Beadle for his trouble.

Jun 10 Were cited and compeared after Sermon at Ballamhulin, before minister and Session, formally met, Archibald Currie and John Macleod in Mursta, charged by Mary Macvulrich in Croisgar for a riot and profanation of the Sabbath in her house, but upon a fair hearing they were judged not guilty but that their accuser was and therefor she was ordered to do penance for the said and for her assurance in entering a groundless complaint, before the congregation, the next Sunday they would meet at said place.

1772

Jan 8 Compeared before the minister and Session, formally met at Ballamhulin, Christian McPhail, who solemnly deponed that John McLeod, was the father of her late pregnancy upon which he was adjudged guilty and ordered to do penance before the Congregation, till absolved by the Session.

1773

Jan 10 Compeared before the Minister and Session, formally met at Hilipoll, Allan McLean, Hough, John McVolric, Kilkenneth, Hector McVolric, Kilkenneth, Archibald McLean, Mursta, and John Macdonald, ib, and after prayers being strictly examined anent riot and breach of the Sabbath committed by them two weeks before, they were obliged to acknowledge the same and in order to set an example before others and deter their neighbours from the like practices, they were fined in shillings 5, each, and granted security for payment thereof a month there-after, and all was concluded with prayers.

Sep 10 Compeared before minister and Session formally met at Kirkapoll, Hugh McInnis, son to Donald McInnis in Valla, and Mary McPhail, ib., being summoned for the crime of fornication. They both acknowledged guilt and concurred with respect to the time, viz., 3 nights before Candlemass last and the sederunt concluded as it began with prayer.

Nov 16 The Session thinking it more for the benefit of the poor accepted of £1-15-0 sterling from Mr. McLean, of Kilmaluag in lieu of both parties fines and doing penance before the Congregation.

1774

Jan 24 Compeared before minister and Session, formally met at Hilipoll Donald McCallum, millar, and Katharine Mcfarlane, both in Hilipoll, being charged with adultery together. She positively affirmed him to be the father of her pregnancy, having had carnal dealings with her in her own house late at night about a fortnight before Lammas and he as strenuously denied his ever knowing her to be Wo-man. After serious exhortations to both parties to confess the truth the sederunt was concluded with prayer.

Feb 12 Compeared before the Minister and Session formally met at Ballamhulin, Donald McCallum, millar, charged with adultery with Katharine Mcfarlane, in Hilipoll, (vid. Jan. 24). After prayers and many serious admonitions, to confess guilt, he proved to be as dogmatick as ever, and pretended to be ready to depone upon his innocence. Upon which the Minister and Session dismissed him pro tempore and concluded with prayer as usually.