

The Presbytery of Ayr: Its Schools and Schoolmasters, 1642-1746

JAMES J. FOWLER, M.A.

The following references to education in the area covered by the Presbytery of Ayr are intended to provide source material which is at present not readily accessible. This material is the by-product of an investigation into the early story of Carrick Academy, Maybole, and there has been neither the time nor the intention at present to digest and assess the mass of information provided by the records.

Apart from the fact that about one-third of the century covered lacks documentation—a period which saw both the Commonwealth and the establishment for the second time of Episcopacy—absence of specification in places makes it obvious that, despite the meticulous care of most of the Presbytery Clerks, many questions cannot be answered from what is here presented. The general picture, however, is clear enough : on the one hand the unremitting efforts of a Presbytery, spurred on by zeal for religion, to realise the ideal of a school and a competent schoolmaster in every parish ; on the other the unwillingness—or, perhaps in view of economic conditions, the inability—of many heritors to meet the obligations the law had laid on them. There were, of course, the parishes where ample provision for educational needs was early made, and only once can one infer from the answers given that the value of education itself was not recognised. By the end of 1726 it would seem that four out of every five parishes were provided with schoolmasters, approved of by the Presbytery.

In editing the extracts every effort has been made to avoid doing injustice to the spirit or to the meaning of the original. For this reason, and also because of a desire not to exclude matter which sheds light on ideas and customs of a past age, the extracts are at times fuller than may have been necessary from a strictly educational standpoint. The value to the historian of names of people and of places has led me to include many whose exclusion would have been no loss for my specific purpose.

There is a collection of extracts dealing with general topics, then (pages 95 to 170) a series relating to the several parishes; this is followed (page 170) by an index to certain names, mainly schoolmasters; and finally (page 172) notes on sources and transcription, and a glossary.

I.—GENERAL TOPICS

1. SALARIES

[1] 1697, *Mar.* 31. All the severall members are required to use diligence to gett Sallaries for Schoolm[aste]rs settled in their paroch conform to a late act of parliament, & report . . .

Repeated 2 Jun. 1697. See [87].

[2] 1697, *Jun.* 30. Each Minister (except these in Carrick q[uhe]r the Earle of Cassills hath interest q[uhi]ch is delayed a litle) is to make intimation from their pulpits (q[uhe]r sallaries are not already settled) for conveening the severall heretors of their paroches, & the session is to write to nonresident heretors in order to the setleing a sufficient sallarie for a schoolm[aste]r in each paroch conform to law : & to shew th[e]m if they doe it not they will take ane instrument against th[e]m & therew[i]t[h] the presb[yt]rie will apply to the Com[m]issioners of the Shyre. . . .

[3] 1697, *Jul.* 21. Some Ministers report they have made intimation for conveening their heretors anent schoolm[aste]rs sallaries, & others tell they finde inconveniency to doe it, & th[e]r[e]for must labour to bring th[e]m up to it by degrees. . . .

Continued 15 Sep. 1697. Further general report 17 Nov. 1697.

[4] 1697, *Dec.* 8 . . . its appointed that such paroches who are not sufficiently provided already make a 2d intimation for the Heretors meeting to stent th[e]mselves . . . if after that they doe it not, . . . the presbytrie are to apply the Com[m]itee of the Shyre . . .

[5] 1698, *May* 4. M[ess]rs Mongo Lindsay Henry Adam & James Gilchirst junior produced extracts of instruments taken against their heretors in regard th[at] after intimation made, they did not meet to settle sallaries for schoolm[aste]rs in their severall paroches [i.e. Sorn, Kirkoswald, New Cumnock] . . . ; the Ministers of Air are to apply to the Com[m]issioners of th[i]s shyre . . . to put the act of parliament th[e]r anent ag[ain]st such or any other in execution.

Repeated 31 May, 7 Dec. 1698; 4 Jan., 9 Feb. 1699.

[6] 1698, *Nov.* 2. The Ministers of Air who were formerly appointed to addresse the Com[m]issioners of the Shyre (q[uhe]n they should meet), to impose sallaries as the act of parliament doth impower th[e]m : Did give in their report they had addressed th[e]m at their last meeting; their diligence is approven. Yet in regard the s[ai]d com[m]issioners were th[e]n averse to doe any thing in the absence of some Noblemen concerned in thes[e] paroches defective th[e]r[e]in the s[ai]d Ministers with M[ess]rs Baird & Henry Osburn are to wait on the s[ai]d Com[m]issioners at their next meeting to addresse th[e]m of new for th[at] effect.

[7] 1699, *Nov.* 22. M[ess]rs Gilchirst S : Hen : osburn & the Ministers of Air are appointed to addresse the Com[m]itee of the Shyre anent Schoolm[aste]rs sallaries . . . Mr. Gilchirst S : & Mr. fairweather are to speak to the Earle of Cassills concerning th[e]s[e] paroches th[at] have not schoolm[aste]rs & sallaries q[uhe]r he hath interest. Ministers who have not instrumented th[e]r heretors after more fair dealing & due intimation made are yet to doe it.

Continued 20 Dec. 1699, 17 Jan. 1700.

[8] 1703, *Sep.* 8 . . . concerning schools . . . Mr. orr Mr osburn & Mr. Hunter to apply to the Com[m]issioners of the shyre q[uhe]n they meet . . .

[9] 1705, *Mar.* 14 . . . severalls who want schools . . . have taken instruments against their heretors in order to lay th[e]m befor the Commissioners for supply in this shyre, but a quorum cannot be had.

[10] 1708, *Oct.* 27. The Clerk is appointed to look the synod register . . . concerning schools.

[11] 1720, *Dec.* 20. Ane former letter from the Reverend Commission anent . . . the manner how to obtain a sallary for a schoolmaster in each paroch according to law ; . . .

[12] 1722, *Oct.* 3. *On this date the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr met and ordered the following to be inserted in the Presbytery Register. The 1719-32 volume has therefore at the beginning :—*

Roll of things that are to be observed by the Revisers of Synod or presb[yt]ry Books . . .

(7) If synods doe call there presbytries to an account as to the pains they take to gett a school settled in every paroch, & provided with a sufficient mantainance according to law. And take care that the same be visited conform to act 5th Ass[embly] 1705 & act 13 Ass[embly] 1706 and act 5th Ass[embly] 1707 . . .

[13] 1724, *Mar.* 3. As to the having of schools settled in each paroch . . . to know what was the quota some had & what is their security for it, & how far deficient : the clerk is to look out what is in the register . . .

A fuller report is to be given where salaries are deficient.—
10 *Jun.* 1724.

[14] 1724, *Sep.* 2. The Ministers of these paroches who have no sallary to a schoolm[aste]r, & these who have some sallary but not legally sufficient nor settled are appointed to deall with the heretors of their paroches to see if they will settle . . . without . . . a legall course . . .

[15] 1725, *Jan.* 27. The presbytry considering the 4th act of Assembly 1719 & the recom[m]endation of the synod in October last ordaining all the presbytries in their bounds to use proper means to have schools settled in each paroch according to law as its appointed by act 5th parl : 1 Ch : 1 1633 and 26 act sess. 6th parl. King William. wherein its enacted that in each paroch there be a school, & the schoolm[aste]r to have a sallary not under an hundreth merks & not above two hundreth merks ; the half to be payed by the heretors & lyfrenters, & the other half by their tennents : and lykwise that there be a commodious house for the school . . . Therefor the presbytry doe desyre the heretors of the paroches aftermentioned to meet . . . These are all to meet . . . upon the 2d day of March next & the Ministers of the severall places are to make intimation of the s[ai]ds meetings ten free dayes before the same . . . & they are to preach . . . & after sermon at these places, the s[ai]d Commitees are to constitute their meeting with prayer & each choise their own clerk. (And Mr. Lawrie jun. is hereby appointed to write of this design to the Right Honourable the Earle of Cassills, & the honourable Mr. Kennedy of Kirkhill a barron of the Exchequer both at Ed[inbu]r[gh] anent the paroches they have interest in.) And the respective heretors are to stent themselves in a sallary for a schoolm[aste]r, & to provide a commodious house for the school in the terms of the above acts. And in case the most part of the heretors doe not meet or if mett,

doe not proceed to stent themselves as above ; Then the Minister of the paroch & one of the Ministers of the Com[m]itee at Bar shall [take] instruments in the clerks hand of the meeting. & produce an extract th[e]r[e]of with their report at the next presbytry.

See [131], [147], [308], [427], [443], [471].

[16] 1726, *Aug.* 17 . . . Minuts of last synod were read . . . As to the having schools in each paroch these who want them are to deal with their heretors to bring th[e]m up to doe it to prevent obtaining th[e]m in a legall way . . .

Synod's instructions repeated 2 *Nov.* 1726.

[17] 1727, *Mar.* 7. Anent schools and sallaries . . . The presbytry did appoint Commitees to meet with the heretors of these paroches, where such are wholly wanting, & upon not complying to settle the same, instruments are taken : yet that Ministers are to deall with these heretors to gett that matter adjusted, if possible without a course of law : And also to gett an augmentation from these who have some sallary, . . .

Presbytery reported action being taken 5 *Sep.* 1727. *The clerk is to look out the instruments taken where there is no sallary and the presbytry is to consider—*20 *Dec.* 1727.

[18] 1728, *Jan.* 23. The clerk produced what instruments were taken by Commitees appointed . . . And that the presbytry may be in case to make report to the ensuing synod what has been done, they appoint the two Ministers of Air with M[ess]rs James Lawrie Robt ffisher George Reids sen : & Jun : with the clerk to meet . . . to draw up a representation of that matter to be laid before the next presbytry that they may prosecute that good design before the court competent.

[19] 1728, *Sep.* 3. There is nothing furdur done anent settling schools . . .

[20] 1729, *Apr.* 23. The s[ai]d two brethren [*i.e.* the ministers of Ayr] and Mr Adam are appointed to wait on the Com[m]issioners of supply anent getting schools settled . . .

The decision to do this taken on 4 *Mar.* 1729, *and on* 2 *Jul.* 1729 *the Ministers of Ayr were ordered to report.*

[21] 1729, *Sep.* 2 . . . there are instruments taken by the Ministers where there are no sallaries upon the heretors refusing to settle it.

& being there are nothing done by these who were to apply to the Commissioners of supply the presbytry are to apply to them . . .

[22] 1730, *Mar.* 17. The presbytry appoint that at their next meeting after the ensueing synod, they will . . . appoint brethren to wait on the Commissioners of supply of this shyre, at their first meeting in order to gett schools settled in each paroch, (where the heretors declined to doe it), according to law.

[23] 1730, *Sep.* 8. As to the paroches where schools are wanting, & that instruments have been taken against the heretors who came not into the legall measures prescribed: the presbytry appoints the Classe of Air to take these instruments to their consideration, that they may think on expedients to obtain this in every paroch, & they are to lay the same befor the presbytry; that after these are agreed to, they may lay the same befor the Commissioners for supply at their next meeting, that there may be course taken to gett that matter settled according to law & brought to an ishue.

On 3 Mar. and 7 Sep. 1731 much the same action is taken: a committee to consider 'reports from the severall paroches' is appointed in the first case and, in the second, the ministers concerned are advised to make the application themselves.

[24] 1732, *Mar.* 14 . . . the clerk is appointed to draw out a particular account of these paroches that have legall sallaries, and also of these that have taken instruments against the heretors of their paroches th[e]r[e]upon, & are not since provided: And as to these the presbytry appoints the Ministers of Air Mr Andrew & Mr Reid sen: & James Hunter ane elder to meet as a Committee the 18th April next to revise these instruments in order to their being presented to the Commissioners of supply at their first meeting.

[25] 1732, *Aug.* 23. Anent getting a school . . . there has no furdur steps been taken since the last synod: but the presbytry is to have that matter under consideration at their next meeting; that proper steps may be made . . . to obledge the recusants to doe it . . . they appoint M[ess]rs Lindsay & Maitland to wait on the right Honourable the Earle of Lowdown to intreat he would asist in getting schools settled in these paroches where his Lo[rdshi]p has interest. And some are to be appointed to wait on the right Honourable the Earle of Marchmont to the same effect when he comes to the countrey. And M[ess]rs John steel George Reid jun. & David Cowper are appointed to wait on the right Honourable

My Lord Creichtoun & the Laird of Achinleck for the s[ai]d design where they have interest.

These or similar instructions are given on (two pages are missing here) [?] Jan. or Feb. 1733, and again on 6 Mar. 1733.

[26] 1733, *Apr.* 25. The Moderator informs he waited on the Right Honourable the Earle of Lowdown & reports That his Lo[rdshi]p is in readiness to comply with the presbytrys desyre anent setling schools . . .: but th[e]r[e] is no report from these that were to speake with the Earle of Cassills Lord Creichtoun & others.

[27] 1733, *Nov.* 13. That such as want schools legally settled, are to be at pains to have them; and if it is not obtained, that they give in in write what obstructs it.

Continued at meetings of 3 Sep. 1734, 5 Nov. 1735, 7 Jan. and 18 Feb. 1736.

[28] 1736, *Mar.* 17. And anent having a school settled in each parish that are wanting either in these that have but partial sallary . . . or have none at all that nothing has been done therein since the last Synod but have resolved to do something therein before the meeting of the Commissioners of supply in June.

Continued on 5 May and on (date uncertain because of blanks, but very likely) 9 Jun. 1736.

[29] 1736, *Sep.* 7 . . . And as to that of having a school in each paroch with a sallary to a schoolmaster according as the Laws provides there having been little advance made . . . That the Presbytry may do more effectually therein as the Synod enjoyns They appoint that M[ess]rs Reid junior and Coopar speak with Auchinleck as to that paroch M[ess]rs Reid senior and Campbell junior speak with the Earle of Loudoun anent Dalgain [Sorn] it being informed that his Lo[rdshi]p has done something as to the setling a school at Muirkirk with others concerned. And that Mr John Hunter write to the Lord Polwarth anent having a school at Riccarton concerning which M[ess]rs Walker and Cunynghame are to speak with Mr Cunynghame of Caprington to concurr therein. And that M[ess]rs Adam and Cupples speak to the heretors of Kirkoswald And that M[ess]rs Laurie and Paton speak to the heretors of Dailie. And M[ess]rs Paton and Campbell senior speak to the heretors of Barr and M[ess]rs Reid senior and Steel junior speak to these in Stair. These ministers are to lay before these Honourable persons and other Gentlemen concerned that they will please call a meeting of the heretors of the res[pect]ive paroches

where they have interest and deal with them that if possible something be done betwixt and the first of October next to settle a salary . . . , and if nothing shall be done therein before the Synod in Aprile next the Presbytry will make application to the first meeting of the Commissioners of Supply to have it done in the terms of law and the forsaid brethren are to report their dilligence the next Presbytry.

[30] 1736, Dec. 1. A report is expected from the brethren who were appointed to meet with the heretors of paroches as in minute 7th Septer last anent settling of sallaries to a schoolmaster in the paroches w[h]ere they are wanted.

Continued at meetings of 29 Dec. 1736 : 26 Jan. 27 Apr, 1 and 29 Jun 1737.

2. INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS

[31] 1722, Oct. 3. See [12].

[32] 1736, Jan. 7. The Presbytry recommend it to the class of Ayr to take a review of the act of Parliament relating to the power given to Presbytrys to Visit and judge of the state of schools within their bounds and also all the acts of Assembly concerning that subject in order to make up a formula to be observed in visiting all schools which shall comprehend not only the useal tryals of the scholars proficiency but may particularly direct a proper method of enquiring into the care & pains that is taken to form the minds of the Youth to the knowledge and love of these principles that ought to conduct and influence their whole life.

Instructions repeated or consideration delayed : 18 Feb, 17 Mar, 5 May, [?] 9 Jun, 4 Aug 1736.

[33] 1736, Sep. 8. Anent settling a formula at Visiting Grammar schools, and instructing of Youth in the principles & practice of religion the several classes are to meet and consider of and report next Presbytry and the several members are to converse with their brethren of other Presbytrys to know the practice in other places.

Continued 27 Oct, 1736.

[34] 1736, Dec. 29 . . . that the class of Ayr make out ane Extract of the acts of parliament and Assembly which they have begun anent visiting schools and that the Classes report next meeting . . .

[35] 1738, Mar. 14 . . . the Presbytry [appoint] the brethren of the classe of Ayr and with them M[ess]rs ffisher Coopar and Younger to Visit the Grammar school of Ayr the Tuesday before the next Presbytry at Ayr. And the classes of Cumnock Maybole and Galston are each appointed to Visit the grammar schools that are in each of their bounds at the first classick meeting, and ane account of their dilligence is to be carried on in the minuts.

Cross references have been made only in the above-mentioned parishes, as the number of grammar schools is uncertain.

[36] 1738, Apr. 26. There is no report of Visiting the grammar schools as was appointed to be done in March last.

Continued 24 May, 21 Jun 1738.

[37] 1742, Aug. 31. The Presbytry having communed upon proper expedients from [*sic*] promoting Edification in their several paroches Resolved and appointed as one most proper mean for this good purpose that Every minister shall in time coming Visit the paroch school once a month or as often as he conveniently can, . . . and Enquire into their [*i.e.* the schoolmasters'] dilligence. And in order to keep this appointment the better in remembrance 'tis agreed that the Observation of it shall be made henceforth a Question at the privy censures.

See also [49].

[38] 1744, Oct. 31. The Presbytry are Resolved to order the Visiting of other schools in their bounds afterwards.

3. CURRICULUM AND METHODS

[39] 1699, Nov. 22. Mr Gilchirst sen: & Mr Cowper are to correspond with a Com[m]itee of the Synod being named by th[e]m for concerting a method of teaching in grammar schools.

[40] 1736, Feb. 18. Reported that the Act of Assembly 1719 . . . was read and the classes not being ready to give in what proper expedients they think of to cheque the progress of immoralities in all its branches conform to last day's minute [[32] 7 Jan. 1736] and about training of youth to the knowledge and practice of religion is to be brought in next day . . .

Continued 5 May, [?] 9 Jun, 4 Aug 1736.

[41] 1736, *Sep.* 8. See [33]; continued 1 and 29 Dec. 1736.

[42] 1737, *Jan.* 26. There were some Overtures anent Act of Assembly 1719 and the last Assembly and suppressing of immoralities and about training up of Youth in Schools brought in by the class of Ayr which were read and each of the other classes are to get a double thereof to consider off and report their mind upon them.

[43] 1737, *Sep.* 7. The Presbytry appoints the several classes to meet this day fourteen days When they are to consider of the proposals about schools and the Education of Youth in their learning and in the principles of religion as was ordered some time agoe.

[44] 1737, *Oct.* 26. The Presbytry appoints the Classes of Ayr Maybole and Galston to meet this day fourteen days and that of Cumnock this day ffour weeks and they are to bring in their opinion anent the Overtures anent Schools and the Education of Youth (that was formerly proposed and coppies thereof were transmitted to them) to the next presbytry.

[45] 1737, *Nov.* 29. Reported that the classes of Ayr and Cumnock mett but not the other two, the Presbytry appoints each classe to meet ere the next Presbytry and to bring in their opinion upon the Overtures anent schools and Education of Youth as formerly appointed to the next Presbytry.

[46] 1738, *Jan.* 11. Reported that the several classes met for prayer Except that at Galston who were hindered the day appointed by ill weather that fell in that day. And the several classes are to meet betwixt and the next Presbytry and bring in their opinion anent overtures on schools as formerly appointed.

Repeated 15 Feb. 1738.

[47] 1738, *Mar.* 14. The Presbytry recommends it to the several classes at their first meeting to have their thoughts upon what means may be most usefull for discouraging immoralitie and promoting true religion in a particular manner what may be done for training up Youth to a just sense of true piety and virtue and bring in their opinion in short abstracts and the Presbytry is to appoint a Committee to revise the whole and bring in ane Abstract prepared for the Presbytrys cognizance.

[48] 1738, *Apr.* 26. [There is no report] from the several classes of what means may be thought most fitt and proper for discouraging immoralities and training up Youth to a sense of piety and Virtue as before appointed.

Continued 24 May, 21 Jun, 1738.

[49] 1742, *Aug.* 31. The Presbytry having communed upon proper expedients from [*sic*] promoting Edification in their several paroches Resolved . . . that Every minister shall in time coming Visit the paroch school once a month or as often as he conveniently can, And each time Instruct the scholars in the principles and practice of religion, and pray with them, . . .

See also [37].

4. TEXTBOOK

[50] 1714, *Mar.* 2. M[ess]rs Mongo Lindsay John Steell & Samuel Lockhart are appointed to take tryal of the proficiency of the s[ai]d schollars who are taught according to the grammar compiled by Mr John Hunter, & report too morrow afternoon.

[51] 1714, *Mar.* 3. These appointed to take tryal of the proficiency of the children that are taught by Mr Hunters grammar, report they did it & were very satisfied with these scholars as to their knowledge of the three parts of Grammar, which they thought extraordinary, considering that they have attended that school only but about nine moneths.

[52] 1714, *Oct.* 26. The presbytrie appoints the Moderator M[ess]rs James Laurie sen : George Campbell & Robert Miller to take tryall this day twenty dayes of the proficiency of the scholars (who are taught Mr Hunters grammar by Mr Thomas Alstoun) since the last visitation & report.

[53] 1714, *Dec.* 1. These appointed to take tryal of these scholars who are taught by Mr Alstoun conform to Mr Hunters grammar give a very satisfying accompt of their progresse in it, & in the classick authors they are taught: And that conform to the time they have been learning, they acquit themselves beyond all expectation. The presbytrie seeing that the design is lykly to succeed & that it deserves to be advanced, they doe appoint M[ess]rs Robert Cuming Mongo Lindsay John Steell Samuel Lockhart Jon Medermeit & James Laurie junior to revise the

grammar itself, th[a]t there may be an opinion given thereon, so as with confidence it may be recommended to be taught.

[54] 1715, *Jan.* 12. These who have any remarks on Mr Hunters grammar are to meet this night with him to adjust & collate them, & report afterward to the presbytrie.

[55] 1715, *Mar.* 9. M[ess]rs Mongo Lindsay Robert Cuming James Lauries senior & junior John Steell Samuel Lockhart & John Mcdermeit & George Campbell; are appointed to meet at Stair on thursday befor the ensueing synod to compare their remarks on Mr Hunters grammar, & give their opinion of it.

On 25 May 1715 reported that this meeting did not take place and a new one fixed for Ochiltree 'wedensday come eight dayes.'

[56] 1715, *Jun.* 22. The Com[m]itee appointed to visit Mr Hunters grammar did agree upon the following report to be made to the presbytrie viz That its their opinion the method is very good, & that he has done good service by his pains that way, & that the remarks they made are not so materiall, but that in the mean time, the presbytrie may endeavour to have it taught in all schools within their bounds, & that the presbytrie use their interest to have this method to obtain through the whole bounds of the synod. And in that case they finde Mr Hunter is willing to give a second edition with amendments, & subject the copy to the opinion of the presbytrie & synod, or any other they shall think fitt to appoint to give their remarks upon it befor it be printed. the presbytrie approves & recommends accordingly.

[57] 1732, *Apr.* 26. Mr John Hunter represented that about two years agoe he spoke to the Magistrates & councill of Air for their authorizing the teaching of the grammar q[ui]ch he had formerly composed, and upon tryall of the proficiency of boyes who had learned it after a short time, & the classick authors also : The presbytry did then approve & recommend it, as their act bears; & desyring it might be taught for a furdur tryall to one classe as they should think fitt : which the Magistrates & councill having considered, & being desyrous that the easier & sooner education of youth should be endeavoured, they did order Mr Mair the doctor of the s[ai]d school to teach one classe, & that Mr Hunter would take some oversight of them, to make it more easie to him, to see if the s[ai]ds ends of more easie learning, & being lesse tedious may be obtained : And this being done for these two years or th[e]r[e]by he desyred that the presbytry would

appoint a commitee of their number to take a tryall of the proficiency of the boyes who have learned it in the s[ai]d time. Accordingly they did & hereby doe appoint M[ess]rs James Laurie Rott ffisher Tho. Andrews Geo. Reid jun : John Adam & David Cowper to meet at Air the 11th of May next, to take tryall of these boyes who have been taught the s[ai]d grammar & authors : where the Magistrates & other principall inhabitants of the place are to be present, & report their diligence next presbytry.

[58] 1732, *May* 31. This day Mr James Laurie reported that only M[ess]rs Adam Mr Cowper [*sic*] & he were present to take tryall of the boyes proficiency that were taught Mr Hunters grammar & the classick authors (& that Mr Hunter informed th[e]m, he advertised such by letters th[a]t were not present at the appointment) where the Magistrates Mr Mcdermeit & severall others of note in the place were present. And M[ess]rs Laurie & Adam informed that these boyes did expound the Latine Language from Horace & Salust with considerable exactnes, also they did redily construct & decline, & gave the rules of grammar promptly, & turned english into latine out of a book extempore. And a letter being come to the Mod[erato]rs hand directed to the presbytry from Mr James fergusone M[aste]r of the grammar school, the same was read importing That he & other schoolm[aste]rs might have been allowed a discretionary judgment of the s[ai]d grammar befor it got its first & generall recom[m]endation : and seeing the Magistrates & councill of the place, had appointed the same to be taught by Mr Mair for a tryall upon Mr Hunters repeated applications to them, the promised proficiency the boyes has made is mostly owing to the more than ordinary pains Mr Hunter has taken on them; & tho he were willing to teach it in the school, yet he findes upon tryall that the s[ai]d grammar is greatly defective, & in many things erroneous, & judges it will never anssr the designed end : and he is willing to submitt his remarks th[e]r[e]upon to the presbytry; & that befor they proceed any furdur th[e]r[e]in, he desyres that Mr Mair & he may be heard : as the letter in itself more fully bears. which report & letter being considered, they appoint that Mr fergusone bring in his s[ai]d remarks & exceptions against the s[ai]d grammar the next presbytry & that he & Mr Mair be heard in what they have to say : And also Mr Hunter is to bring in some rules he has drawn up for the more easie way of constructing & expounding of Latine authors & after all the presbytry will form a judgment upon the whole.

[59] 1732, *Jun.* 28. There was a letter presented to the presbytry signed by Mr James fergusone & Mr John Mair

schoolm[aste]rs of Air with a large paper of objections against Mr Jon Hunters grammar; The presbytry not having time to consider that matter so fully as is needfull, doe appoint the following Committee The Mod[erato]r M[ess]rs Mo : Lindsay Jon Steell James Laurie Rott Alexr Rott ffisher Geo : Reid sen : & jun : & David Cowper to consider the s[ai]d remarks & compare them with the grammar : & they are to meet for that purpose the 25th of June [should be July] next. & the presbytry is to meet on the 26th th[e]r[e]after in this place [i.e. Ayr]. and Mr fergusone is allowed a copy of the rules for expounding Latine that Mr Hunter shall give in.

On 26 July 1732 the appointment was renewed as only three of the Committee had met.

[60] 1732, Oct. 18. The brethren who were appointed to consider the remarks that are made by the schoolmasters of Air on Mr Hunters grammar are to bring in their report thereupon.

5. SIGNING THE CONFESSION OF FAITH

[61] 1701, Aug. 13. All that have schoolm[aste]rs & chaplains in their paroches who have not signed the confession of faith are to advertise th[e]m to be present to doe it; . . .

[62] 1709, Aug. 16. The severall Ministers . . . are appointed to advertise the severall chaplains & schoolm[aste]rs that are in their paroches who have past their course of phylosophie, who have not already produced testimonialls & signed the confession of faith conform to act of Assembly to be present the next presb[ytic] for that effect : . . .

[63] 1709, Sep. 14. This day severall Chaplains & schoolm[aste]rs signed the confession of faith . . . & others who are not present, are to be advertised . . . to be present at the presbytrie after the ensuing synod, to sign the same.

[64] 1709, Oct. 27. There being no chaplains or schoolmasters attending this meeting the presbytrie are [to] consider there anent at their next meeting.

[65] 1725, Apr. 28. Schoolm[aste]rs that teach Latine & Chaplains in Gentlemens families within thir bounds who have not signed the Confession of faith . . . are to be advertised . . . to come & doe it.

Repeated 21 Jul. 1726.

[66] 1726, Aug. 17. None of the Ministers present have chaplains or schoolm[aste]rs in their paroch at present but who have signed the Confession of faith but the appointment continues on others to advertise such to come & doe it.

The sederunt contains the names of Ministers from the following Parishes, viz., Ayr, Barr, Coylton, Craigie, Old Cumnock, New Cumnock, Dailly, Dundonald, Galston, Girvan, Kirkmichael, Kirkoswald, Maybole, Monkton and Prestwick, Ochiltree, St. Quivox, Sorn, Stair, Straiton, Symington, and Tarbolton.

II.—PARISHES

1. ALLOWAY

1690 united with Ayr; 1860 erected anew.

[67] 1643, Jul. 26 . . . Mr David Mccorne gave in the Edict and summons given out for citing of the parocheners of Alloway . . . dylie execute and indorsat by David Rodger shoolmast[er] at Alloway.

2. AUCHINLECK

[68] 1642, May 18 . . . thair culd not be ane convenient place for a shoole, in respect of the great distance of the parochiners from the kirk, Bot that honest men keiped thair bairnes at shoole at home besyde themselves. And that thair wes no settled maintenance for a shoolmaster. And thairfor the Moderator in name of the Presbiterie desyred the said Mr Johne [Shaw, the minister] to tak paines for provyding of competent maintenance for a shoolmaster . . . the Scriptures wer read, and Psalmes sung everie Sabbath, by the present shoolmaster and Reader . . . appoynted that my Lord-Chancellor The Earle of Lowden suld be spoken, and consulted . . . for provision for a shoolmaster.

[69] 1651, Jan. 15. Mr Andrew Dalrymple expectant returned his edict in relation to the kirk of Achinlek, lawfully indorsat by Adame Wason late shoolemaster at Achinlek, . . .

[70] 1721, Jan. 31 . . . The paroches of . . . Achinleck . . . have no settlement for a schoolmaster at all . . . and they appoint Ministers . . . to lay it befor their heretors in order to their more easie going into the s[ai]d settlement without a legall pursuit, & if otherwise, to certify . . .

[71] 1724, *May* 6. *Not in list of parishes where there is either 'no sallary at all' or 'no legall sallary.'*

[72] 1727, *Apr.* 6 . . . Mr James Dryden schoolm[aste]r at Achinleck . . . signed the Confession of faith . . .

[73] 1729, *Oct.* 8. Mr. Edward Aiken chaplain at Achinleck . . . to be present at the next presbytry . . .

Reported on 12 Nov 1729 that Aiken has 'gone east with Achinlecks family.'

[74] 1735, *Sep.* 2. That these who have no school provyded nor a sallary to a schoolmaster according to law and have taken Instruments against their heretors for not doing it are the paroches of Dalgain Riccarton Kirkoswald Craigie New Cumnock Dailie, Barr Moorkirk Auchinleck Symintoun Stair & Monkton.

[75] 1736, *Sep.* 7. *See* [29].

[76] 1736, *Dec.* 1. *See* [30].

3. AYR

Between 1690 and 1860 included Alloway.

[77] 1642, *May* 16 . . . Mr Johne Hamiltoun, sumtyme sholmaster in Bangore in Irland declared that he had bein overtaken with the irish oath. And that he had given signes of publict repentance in the High Kirk of Glasgow, for that offence. And produced ane Testimoniall of his satisfaction, subseryved by Mr David Diksone and vthers . . . As also produced ane vther Testimoniall subseryved by Mr Robert Young clerk to the Presbiterie of Glasgow, Declaring that the said Presbiterie had granted libertie to the said Mr Johne, of publict preaching and exercising of his gift amongst them. And thairfor required the lyke libertie to be granted to him by the Presbiterie of Ayr . . . The Presbiterie concluded That the said Mr Johne suld first he heard amongst them. And thairfor appoynted the said Mr Johne to preach . . .

[78] 1642, *May* 26. Mr William Wallace scholmaster removed. The ministers . . . approved him in his Doctrine & facultie in teaching of the youth, and in the exercise of Discipline. Bot regrated his none attendance Diligentlie wpon the shoole, The

jarring and discord betuix him and the Doctor Robert Andro. q[ui]lk wes liklie to overthrow the shoole. As also regrated the keiping bak of some weil disposed shollers becaus of the dullnes and ignorancie of vthers . . .

[79] 1642, *May* 26. Mr William Smyth Reader and Musitian removed. The ministers and elders . . . did approve him to be faithfull and honest in his charge and lyfe. They desyred the Presbiterie to exhort the said Mr William to conceive prayer, yet professing that they did not condemne read prayers in the church . . .

On 4 May 1642 Smyth was appointed Clerk to the Presbytery of Ayr, and the book was given to him by Mr Gabriell Maxwell, 'the preceeding clerk for the tyme maid by the Presbiterie.'

[80] 1642, *Nov.* 9. The shoole of Ayr appoynted to be visited to morrow.

[81] 1644, *Mar.* 27. Mr Adam Ritchie preacher and Mr Johne hamilton shoolemaster appoynted to preach in Ayr as the[y] suld be requyred in Mr William Adair his absence in jrland.

[82] 1647, *Dec.* 29. The exerceis established in the persons of Mr Wm. fullartoune fir[st] & Mr Jon hamiltoune shoolemaster second speaker text 1 Pet. 2 7 [?].

Hamilton appears as an 'exerciser' on 19 Jan, 9 Feb ('schoolm[aste]r in Air'), 1 Mar 1648; 27 Jun, 18 Jul 1649; 21 Aug, 4 & 18 Sep, 9 Oct ('shoolemaster of Air') 1650.

[83] 1649, *May* 17 . . . he [Mr Adair] preaches once in the sabbath, & Mr Jon Hamiltoune th[ai]r shoolemaster preaches the afternoone, . . .

The pre[s]b[ite]rie taking to there considera[tio]n the case of the grammer shoole apoynted Mr Wm. Cokeburne Mr Wm. Scott Mr Gab Maxwell & Mr Hew Eccles to visite the same at severall dyets to begin this afternoone, as lykwise to try the lyf and conversa[tio]n of Mr Jon hamiltoune shoolemaster.

[84] 1695, *Feb.* 5. Mr Rot Patoun Mr Ja. Richmond Mr Matt Baird Mr Ja. Gilchirst sen & Mr Pat Liston w[i]t[h] the Laird of Corsbie as ruling elder are appointed to visit the gram[m]ar School of Air, . . . to be visited upon the 5th of March nixt.

[85] 1695, *Mar.* 6. These appointed for visiting the grammar school of Air report they finde all things regular, excepting there is one John Wilsone who diserts ordinances : the M[aste]r undertakes to help that, or else to dismisse him altogether ; The presbytrie approves their report, & Mr James Richmond is to advertise the Schoolmasters to wait on the presbytrie at the next meeting at Air.

[86] 1695, *Jun.* 26. The schoolm[aste]rs of Air compeired & were enjoined to diligence in teaching th[ei]r scholars & to instruct th[e]m in the principles of religion, & to keep none th[a]t walk disorderly & convene & dismisse th[ei]r school w[i]t[h] prayer.

They had been excused for non-attendance at the meetings of 10 Apr and 29 May 1695.

[87] 1697, *May* 5. Anent that of setting sallaries for schoolm[aste]rs conform to Law in each paroch of th[i]s presbytrie, its reported that schools of Air Galstone & Mayboll are already settled : the rest of the members present say they have essayed somewhat thereabout, but have not gott it wholly ended : but engadge to doe therein what they can against the next presbytrie.

[88] 1707, *Jul.* 29 . . . the presb[ytrie] appoints to visit the grammar school of Air the brethren aftermentioned viz M[ess]rs Alexr Orr Robert Cuming Wm Boyd & the Minister of the place, who is to acquaint the Magistrates th[e]r[e]of.

[89] 1707, *Aug.* 27 . . . it was reported that the Grammar Schools of Air & Mayboll were visited by thes[e] appointed & having taken tryall of the scholars in both places they found they had made good proficiency, & that they heard a good report of the schoolmasters as to their good behaviour & christian cariage : with report the presb[ytrie] were satisfied.

[90] 1708, *Sep.* 21. The presbytrie being informed by the Ministers of Air, th[a]t the grammar school there is new vacant by the death of Mr Wm. Rankine [See [401]] who was schoolmaster ; Did appoint the Moderator in their name to write to the Magistrates & town councell, recom[m]ending it to them to take care to have that place well supplied again, & expects they will make orderly steps in so doing, & that they will neither call nor receive any to that post till he be first tryed & approven by the presbytrie, as is appointed . . . by severall acts of parliament & Assembly.

[91] 1708, *Oct.* 27. The Mod[erato]r reports he wrote to the Magistrates of Air . . . & in regard th[e]r[e] is no anssr from them, the presb[ytrie] sent one of their number to know their anssr from the provest. whose anssr is that since his election as provest the councell hath not mett, but that he will call th[e]m to morrow to lay the s[ai]d letter befor them after q[ui]h[er] the presb[ytrie] shall have an anssr. And because it is surmised they have advanced Mr James fergusone (who was formerly in the capacity of Doctor) to be master of the grammar school by an act of the town councell without previous tryal by the presb[ytrie] . . . th[e]r[e]for the presb[ytrie] orders the clerk to provide the acts of parl[ia]m[en]t, & the acts of Assembly that at the next presb[ytrie] it may be advised how far presbyteries are impowered & authorized to doe with respect to the trying & admitting of schoolm[aste]rs.

[92] 1708, *Nov.* 24 . . . the presb[ytrie] received a letter in return to theirs from the Magistrates of Air bearing . . . they had advanced Mr James fergusone their second Master, as they judge in an orderly way, to the office of first master having somewhat of necessity for it, else the grammar school had been lost but withall that he should abide tryals befor such as should be appointed by the presb[ytrie] (in presence of the town councell) q[ui]h[er] they thought fitt, & for that end they hereby desyre the presb[ytrie] to appoint some of their number . . . with all dispatch, that so he may be approven : . . . after reading of q[ui]h[er], & some acts of parliament, & an act of Assembly 1645 anent the power of presb[ytries] in the tryal of schoolmasters befor installment, the presb[ytrie] did not at this tyme determine whither this procedure of the Magistrates of Air to install a schoolmaster without previous tryal by them was a legall & orderly step ? both that because of the stormie weather their number was few, & also that they judge there are some acts of Assembly since the revolution made thereanent q[ui]h[er] are not in the clerks hand th[e]r[e]for its delayed t[ill] the next presb[ytrie] & such members as have all the acts of Assembly by th[e]m are to peruse them . . . till q[ui]h[er] tyme an anssr to the s[ai]d letter is referred.

[93] 1708, *Dec.* 29. This day the presbytrie entred on the consideration of the busines of the grammar school of Air : & after reading the act of Assembly th[e]r[e]anent & having reasoned some tyme . . . The following overture was proposed That the presbytrie hereby doe assert they have a right to try & approve schoolmasters & doctors of grammar schools ere they ought to be admitted to any charge conform to an act of Assembly 1645

... & declare that this shall be a warning to all in tyme coming ... And with respect to the case of Air, the presbytrie holds themselves lesed by the present Magistrates & town counsell th[e]r[e]of in being passed by in this matter. Notwithstanding upon some speciall considerations they are willing to take tryal of the s[ai]d Mr James fergusone whom the s[ai]d Magistrates have admitted. which overture being put to the vote, was approven *nemine contradicente*. And for that effect the presbytrie ... appoint M[ess]rs Alexr Orr James Gilchirst Robert Cuming James Lawrie with the Ministers of Air with some of the session of Air to be chosen for that effect ... to take tryal of the s[ai]d Mr fergusone in terms of the act of parliament [*blank in original*] q[ui]h they tryal is to be at Air upon the first day of febrj jmvjc & nine ...

[94] 1709, Feb. 2. After prayer the Mod[erato]r told he acquainted the Magistrates of Air of the presbyteries remonstrance against their procedure with respect to the school of Air, & that neverthesse they had appointed a Com[m]itee to take tryall of Mr fergusones qualifications ... And the members of the s[ai]d Com[m]itee gave each of th[e]m their excuses why they gott not the s[ai]d appointment fullfilled, which excuses the presbytrie sustained. As also the Moderator told he acquainted the session of Air, that conform to an act of Assembly they were to nominate & appoint some of their number to be present at the s[ai]d tryall, who told him they could appoint none ... till first they laid befor the presbyteries consideration what they alledged they could justly claim : & ... had appointed some of their number to wait upon the presbytrie to lay the same befor them, as also to advise with them what to doe with respect to some incrotchments made by the present Magistrates & counsell ... to their taking the keyes of the church doors & the utensills th[a]t holds the offering & the laver th[a]t holds the watter when children are baptized, from their officer & turned him of : against all q[ui]h they had protested & taken an instrument. And the presbytrie finding that the persons were waiting on, they were accordingly called up, upon q[ui]h compeired John fergusone & Hugh Hamiltone Merchants James Hunter wryter & John Lockhart apothecary, elders from the session of Air ... After which they told ... that the s[ai]d session finds in their records that they have a conjunct right of manadgment granted by Queen Mary of Scotland in her destination of the Milns & frier lands for the Mantainance of Ministers schoolmasters doctors precenters &c. to the Ministers & session with the Magistrates and toun counsell there, & so have a right of placing displacing & calling of Mini[ste]rs schoolm[aste]rs doctors

precenters. And also by a decreit of the Lords of plantations daited the twenty fifth of febrj jmvjc & fourty eight referring to the s[ai]d donation the session have a conjunct power of patronage to dispose of the s[ai]d stipend : to document all q[ui]h they produced their session register ... the session was unwilling that any breach should be betwixt the Magistrates and them, to prevent which they had appointed the Ministers to wait on them to desyre a sight of the s[ai]d charter ... & the forenamed decreit divers tymes, q[ui]h they refused to grant : upon q[ui]h the session had ordered their clerk to take an instrument ... *In fine* they told that the session could not resile so far from their right, which was transmitted to them by their predecessors as to homologate the Magistrates choice of a schoolm[aste]r seeing they have a conjunct right of calling with them, neverthesse if the s[ai]d charter & decreit to q[ui]h the act refers ... doe not bear what is alledged the session will passe fra all pretensions th[e]r[e]to.

The 'incrotchments' are again referred to, with the addition of a demand by the Magistrates for the 'handbell that goes for the dead.'

... the presbytrie determined befor giving any judgment ... to inform the Magistrates of the s[ai]d representa[tio]n ; and accordingly sent Mr Alexr Orr & Mr Osburn ... And the provests anssr was as to the Charter & decreit that he would endeavour to call a counsell to know if they would allow the production of them ... The s[ai]d two brethren having made this report the presbytrie took this whole affair under their consideration & came to this conclusion That the tryal & examination of Mr James fergusone as schoolmaster should be delayed till these rights were produced to the session ...

[95] 1709, Mar. 9. The Ministers of Air tell that the Magistrates of the place have not given nor will give a sight of the fors[ai]d charter & decreit ... And the Mod[erato]r tells that provest Robert Moor spoke to him, desyring the presbytrie to give an anssr to the magistrates letter anent the taking tryall of Mr James fergusone ... The Presbytrie th[e]r[e]upon appoints the Mod[erato]r & Mr Orr to ... tell them the presbyteries determination made the last day, & to demand their anssr anent the s[ai]d charter decreit & keyes &c : & if their anssr satisfie not, the presbytrie unanimously agree that complaint ... shall be made to the ensueing synod ...

On 5 Apr 1709 the matter is delayed as the Magistrates have not been seen by the Moderator and Mr. Orr.

[96] 1709, *Jun.* 2. Mr fullartoun reports that he spoke with the Magistrates of Air & told th[e]m the presbyteries minde anent the tryal of Mr ffergesone, that it was not to be done till the session of Air were satisfied about their aledged right . . . & that he findes they are positive not to shew them [*i.e.* charter and decreet] till they be legally obliedged to it, nor will they return the keyes of the church doors : these things are referred till afterward.

[97] 1714, *Oct.* 26 . . . the scholars (who are taught Mr Hunters grammar by Mr Thomas Alstoun) . . .

Mr Alston's name also appears on 1 Dec 1714 in the same context—see [52] and [53].

[98] 1716, *Feb.* 8. And seeing the patrons of the s[ai]d church have failled in applying the vacant stipends fors[ai]d for pious uses within the paroch, as is appointed by the 23 act of parlia[men]tt held the 19 of July 1690 whereby . . . the s[ai]d patrons have lost their right of administration . . . not only for the bygone & present vacancys abovementioned, but lykwise for the next vacancy . . . And the s[ai]d presbytrie have right to dispose of the s[ai]d vacant stipend for pious uses within the s[ai]d paroch. Therefor the s[ai]d presbytrie . . . doe destinate, appoint imploy & dispose of the s[ai]d vacant stipend for the uses following . . . *It[em]* for augmenting the sallary to an english schoolmaster, the encouragment (which is fourtie pound scots) being too small for any qualified man, fitt to doe service in that place by teaching bookkeeping & fine wryting. *It[em]* a sallary to one to teach scholars who are poor. Also an encouragment for an english schoolmaster in the Landward there being a considerable part of the paroch lying in the countrey . . .

Mr James Laurie, Kirkmichael, was appointed 'factor' for the sums to be 'uplifted'; powers to commence any judicial action.

[99] 1718, *Apr.* 30. Reported by the brethren appointed to meet for conference . . . they found the session were for renewing the submission, And that these from the town councell were for allowing the s[ai]d kirksession a conjunct patronage in disposing of the vacant stipend of the colleague Minister in time coming by equall numbers of the s[ai]d session to these of the Magistrates & councell : And also the s[ai]d conjunct right of setling a schoolmaster, precenter & beddalls; . . .

The Ministers of Ayr are to consult their session.

Mr John Hunter reports . . . as to what the Magistrates & councell accounted concessions (concerning the disposall of the vacant stipend . . .) . . . The installing an english schoolmaster a precenter, & beddall & kirkofficer by equall numbers . . . that session was satisfied with some of these things, And that they were willing also to make some concessions to the Magistrates & councell of what was claimed by them. But because there are other things claimed that are not touched which are of importance to the session, it was their opinion, & that they could not otherwise see, that the whole matters in contest could be ended without resubmitting them to the four Gentlemen advocats who had travelled so much therein already, & with a design of peace in this place . . . The presbytry having reasoned at some lenth . . . it carried by plurality Resubmitt the s[ai]d business to these formerly nominate . . .

[100] 1718, *Jun.* 25 . . . the s[ai]d Magistrates told they were willing to goe into the s[ai]d concessions to the session of Air, & that they should give them in in write . . . they could not now doe it [resubmitting] to these persons who were formerly nominated ; in regard that one of the advocats . . . is now made a Lord of the Session : And that perhaps it might not be fitt to expose their charters to lawyers . . . referred till the afternoon.

The presb[etry] . . . come to this resolution, without laying asyde the fors[ai]d submission altogether. That the s[ai]d Magistrates & councell doe correspond with the session of Air, by giving unto them a double of what they will goe into . . . of what is claimed by the s[ai]d session : & that the session let the s[ai]d magistrates know . . . what they demand ; or will concede to in their claims . . . & to endeavour to come to a better understanding . . .

No progress made—23 Jul. 1718. Joseph Wilson, Bailie, and John Hunter, Town Clerk Depute, appeared with a letter, but no progress had been made ; the Presbytery appointed a Committee to meet on 16th Sep to try and resolve differences—20 Aug 1718.

[101] 1718, *Oct.* 1. Anent the account of the brethren that mett in conference . . . And as to that of the vacant stipend, the manner of application by the s[ai]d Magistrates q[ui]h they offer to shew to the presbytry. The presbytry bid Mr Miller gett it from them, or that they be in readines to produce it to the presbytry at Mayboll the twenty second instant.

[102] 1718, Dec. 3. The presbytry having heard an account from the session of Air concerning the accompt of the disposall of the bygone vacant stipend there, by the Magistrates of that place, & their opinion in write thereupon; wherein they desyre vouchers of the severall articles thereof. The presbytry appoints M[ess]rs James Laurie sen: & Robert Miller to desyre the s[ai]d Magistrates to prepare the s[ai]d vouchers & give them into the presbytry at their next meeting.

Mr Laurie fell ill and Mr Miller 'did not think fitt to deliver the appointment alone'—31 Dec 1718. See also [103].

[103] 1718, Dec. 31. Then appeared James Blair wryter, & told he was appointed by the session with the Ministers & the ruling elder for the time, to represent the state of the busines betwixt the Magistrates & them (wherein the presbytry are also concerned) that has been now of a long time in dependance, to shew how earnest the session is to have the[e]s[e] things brought to a satisfying ishue. . . . the presbytry having discoursed on it at a great lenth & considering . . . either it must be brought to an end by submission or legall decision. in end it came to this state of the vote, renew the appointment to bring in the s[ai]d instructions, or that all parties come into a submission? the roll being called, it carried by plurality, Come into a submission: . . .

[104] 1719, Feb. 4. According to appointment M[ess]rs Jon Steell & Robert Miller acquainted provest Robert Moor, & the Ministers of Air acquainted the session; . . . And this night compeired some of the Magistrates & counsell of Air, & laid befor the prsbytry some things, against submitting these things, & desyred they might further consider that affair. The presbytry being few in number, & the former determination having been done in a considerable meeting & it having been very late; they could doe nothing this night, but that they should be heard fully again . . . The Com[m]issioners from the session of Air report that the s[ai]d session . . . have . . . resubmitted the s[ai]d affairs . . . to the Gentlemen they named formerly . . .

[105] 1719, Jun. 10. Compeired the Ministers & severalls from the session of Air craving that the presbytry may order insisting against the Magistrates of Air by sum[m]onds of wakening for recovering the vacant stipends, or prevail with them to enter into a submission . . . The presbytry . . . promised to hear the Magistrates further thereanent befor they should proceed: Did therefor resolve to give them a further hearing at their next meeting

peremptorie; . . . if they have not reasons to satisfie the presbytry why they should not insist in the processe, or goe into the submission . . . the presbytry will then proceed in that affair . . .

The Clerk reported 'he has gott up the summons of wakening'—5 Aug 1719.

[106] 1719, Sep. 9. [Report of meeting with the Session of Ayr] . . . It was put to the vote by the Mod[erato]r to the Ministers elders & deacons of the session of Air whither they were for keeping by their full number to judge of the managment of the vacant stipend, the sallaries of schoolm[aste]rs & precentor & their installment: in conjunction with the Magistrates & town counsell? or that these things shall be done by equall numbers of each of these societies? & votes being marked it carried by a great plurality. That the s[ai]d managment & installment should be by the full number of the session in conjunction as s[ai]d is being its according to the will of the donor in the Mortification made by Queen Mary anno jmv c sixty seven . . . [After discussion on the report] it carried by a great plurality referr to the synod with respect to the vacant stipend, the right of patronage the installing of schoolm[aste]rs & anent their sallaries &c. . . .

The Magistrates had accepted the Presbytery's authority in the question of 'vacant stipend' and also in the other matters in dispute. The Presbytery now decided to sist the process before the Lords till the Synod's advice was received.

[107] 1723, Apr. 18. *The Presbytery are to consider 'appointing a visit[at]io[n] of the grammar school' of Ayr.*

[108] 1724, Apr. 8 . . . Also the synod recom[m]end it to them to visit grammar schools in their bounds & particularly that of Air betwixt & the next synod. [Inserted at the end of the minute of 12 Sep 1722; the instruction is part of the attestation by the Synod of Glasgow & Ayr.]

See [31].

[109] 1724, May 6. *Not in list of parishes where there is 'no sallary at all' or 'no legall sallary.'*

[110] 1724, Sep. 2. To anssr the appointment of the last synod for visiting the grammar school of Air. the presbytry appoints the Moderator M[ess]rs John Burnet Robert ffisher & George Reid to visit the same: (& the Ministers of Air are to be present) upon

the 2d day of Nov[embe]r next. [Moderator — Robert Miller.]
See [108].

[111] 1724, Nov. 4 . . . the Com[m]itee appointed to visit the grammar school of Air report they did it, & made tryal of the proficiency of the scholars, the manner of teaching & their being instructed in the principles of religion & doe approve of the Masters conduct in these. the presbytry are satisfied with the report.

[112] 1726, Aug. 17. See [66].

[113] 1732, Apr. 26 . . . The presbytry did . . . order Mr Mair the doctor of the s[ai]d school . . .
See also [57].

[114] 1732, May 31 . . . Mr James fergusone M[aste]r of the grammar school . . .
See also [58].

[115] 1732, Jun. 28. There was a letter . . . signed by Mr James fergusone & Mr John Mair schoolm[aste]rs of Air . . .
See also [59].

[116] 1735, Mar. 4 . . . The Presbytry appoints the ministers of these parishes who are wanting a school and a sallary to a schoolmaster that they apply to the heretors of their parish to require them to do it betwixt and the first of May next and if nothing farder can be got done against that time the Presbytry renews their appointment on the ministers of Ayr St. Evox & Dalrymple to apply to the Commissioners of Supply at their first meeting in June that they may order it as is appointed by law.

[117] 1736, Apr. 6 . . . the Mag[ist]rats represented that their grammar school should be visited . . . Upon which the Presbytry appoints M[ess]rs James Laurie Robert Fisher George Reid senior John Adam with the ministers of Ayr to meet on the Twenty Eight instant which the Magistrets are to be informed of and also the masters of the school.

Continued to 9 Jun for report—5 May 1736.

[118] 1738, Mar. 14. See [35], [36].

[119] 1739, Jun. 6. The ministers of the class of Ayr with M[ess]rs ffisher Coopar and Younger are to visit the Grammar

school of Ayr that morning of the day of next privy censures, And the Mag[ist]ratts of Ayr are to be told thereof in due time.

Repeated for the day immediately before the next 'privy censures'
—12 Dec 1739.

[120] 1740, Jan. 23. The Grammar school of Ayr is to be visited by the brethren formerly appointed to do it the Sixth of March next and the Magistrats are to be acquainted thereof in due time.

[121] 1740, Apr. 30. Mr Coopar . . . wrote ane account that other brethren and he had . . . visited the Grammar and English schools of Ayr in presence of the Magistrats and others that they enquired both into the manner of teaching and the proficiency of the scholars and gives a good account as to both and judges they deserve encouragement With which report the brethren that were of that Committee did agree And the Presbytry being well pleased with the said report did appoint Mr Reid senior and Adam to wait on the Magistrats and aquaint them of this good report.

[122] 1743, Sep. 13. The presbytry adjourn till Six o'clock to meet in the publick school . . . [only ministers were present].

4. BALLANTRAE

Removed to Presbytery of Stranraer, Jan. 1699.

[123] 1642, Jul. 14. Ordaines Mr William Cokburne to supplie the kirk of Ballantra against Sunday com eght dayes and to deall w[i]t[h] the session for the shooldmaster his bygane stipends, & peyment th[ai]rof.

[124] 1649, May 16. The elders and deacons of the session of Ballantray presented a paper subscrybed by there clerke of Session A. Thomas . . .

[125] 1697, Oct. 19. [Questions to the Eldership] . . . If they had a schoolm[aste]r, & a mantainance setled according to law, the first they had as to the 2d the heretors s[ai]d q[ue]stion called in they were to meet & setle the same so soon as they could.

[126] 1698, Sep. 22. Mr Ja : Muirhead is allowed to teach a school at Ballantrea.

5. BARNWEIL

The suppression, in 1673, of Barnweil to allow of the erection of Stair met with prolonged opposition on the part of heritors and parishioners and of the Presbytery. Only in 1707 did the Presbytery agree to annex the suppressed parish to Tarbolton and Craigie, and it wasn't until 1723 that ministers from other parishes finally assumed spiritual oversight. The parishes of Ochiltree and Auchinleck were also involved in the dispute. See [402], [404] and 'Critical Examination' (Section IV).

[127] 1642, *Sep.* 8. No maintenance fund for a Reader nor shoolmaster in any of these Kirkes [*i.e.* Tarbolton and Barnweil].

6. BARR

[128] 1698, *Jun.* 28. The session being enquired if they had . . . ; also they have no schoolm[aste]r but s[ai]d they had stented th[e]mselves in a sallary for one q[ui]ch obligation their late Minister had left in Mr Mathew Bairds hand.

The obligation is to be enquired about when Mr Baird returns from Ireland—27 Jul 1698.

[129] 1709, *Jun.* 1 . . . nor sallary for schoolm[aste]r conform to law. . . .

[130] 1724, *May* 6. The presbytrie . . . finde that of these that are present, the paroches of symingtoun Bar dalrimple Coyltoun & dailie have no sallary at all, . . . Therefor the presbytry appoints every particular Minister in their bounds who have no sallaries at all, . . . to take care to deall with their heretors betwixt & the next presbytry to procure a legall settlement conform to law & report from time to time herein.

[131] 1725, *Jan.* 27 . . . The heretors of Bar to meet at Bar kirk with M[ess]rs Alexr Kennedy James Lawrie junior & William Iatoun with Gilbert McLorgan elder & Mr Lawrie is to preach . . . [See [15] for purpose.]

[132] 1725, *Mar.* 9 . . . the paroch of Bar who have agreed to stent themselves . . .

[133] 1726, *Aug.* 17. See [66].

[134] 1728, *Feb.* 27. The presbytry appoints M[ess]rs Robert Alexr William Cupples & William Patoun Ministers with John Tough in Girvan to meet at Bar this day four weeks anent settling a schoolm[aste]rs sallary there according to law, & if it is refused to take an instrument; and Mr Campbell is to make intimation of the meeting to all concerned & write to absent & non-residing heretors thereanent.

[135] 1728, *Apr.* 24. The report of the Committee appointed to meet at Bar . . . was given in & read wherein there was an instrument taken: that the heretors present would not settle it their diligence was appoven.

[136] 1734, *Mar.* 12 . . . There is no expectation of getting a legall sallary settled to a schoolm[aste]r in the paroches of Dailie, Bar Dalgain & new cumnock without a legall course; the Ministers of these paroches having taken instruments in ordinary for some time agoe which are in the presbytrys hands: And that the presbytry is resolved to apply to the Commissioners of supply of the Shire at their first meeting . . .

[137] 1735, *Sep.* 2. See [74].

[138] 1736, *Sep.* 7. See [29] also [30].

7. COLMONELL

Transferred to the Presbytery of Stranraer 1699.

[139] 1642, *Jul.* 20 . . . a supplication wes presented . . . By the goodman of Ardmillan, with many grate reasones contained thairin, for annexing of his Tuentie pund Land of Ardmillan, now within the paroch of Cammonell, To the paroch of Girvan wherunto Mr George Hutchsone minister at Cam[m]onnell Did consent with this protestation, that it suld not be prejudiciall to the colledg of Glasgow, to the right of the viccarage teiths, nor to the Patron or Titulars right of the personage. Also Mr Andro Miller minister at Girvan consented heir wnto with this protestation, . . . Thridlie . . . that in and at the annexing of the saids Lands of Ardmillan to the kirk of Girvane, that the saids Lands, herito[r]s and Tennents salbe obliged to wphold the edifice of the kirk of Girvan, and to contribute for maintenance to a reader and schoolmaster *pro rata*. The Presbiterie having read and considered this frors[ai]d supplication in all the particulars thair of thought it verie reasonable, and thairfor appoynted the same to be represented to the com[m]itte of estate of thair determina[tio]n.

8. COYLTON

Severed from Riccarton 1647, with which it had been united. About 1700 certain parts of lands of Gadgirth disjoined from Ochiltree and added to Coylton.

[140] 1644, Apr. 17. Compeired Andro Cuninghame of Laigland and . . . wes challenged for his misbehaviour and miscariage before the session of cuilton and especiallie for affirming that he stood over the head of Andro Borland Clerk to the session of cuilton, with a basto[n] till he compelled the said Andro to give him a Testimoniall wnder his hand of his and Helen Calhown thair satisfaction of the ordinance of the pr[es]b[ite]rie, in signes of thair publict repentance for thair wnechristian cariage in England. The q[ui]lk challenge he culd not deny . . . ordained the said Andro to produce the foirs[ai]d testimoniall . . .

On 26 Jun 1644 Borland was ordered to be summoned and to produce the session book; on 31 Jul 1644 he appeared and could not deny the giving out of the testimonial to Laigland, and is referred to as 'Reader at Cuilton and Clerk to the Session.'

[141] 1644, Aug. 14. Compeired Andro Borland . . . and . . . produced the session book of Cuilton wherin wes contained ane act concerning Andro Cuninghame and Helen Calhown of thair satisfaction of ane act and ordinance of the Pr[es]b[ite]rie . . . [blank for the insertion of the 'act'] . . . the Pr[es]b[ite]rie . . . wnderstanding that the said Andro had contrare to the mynd of the session of Cuilton, . . . given ane Testimoniall wnder his hand . . . contrare to the foirs[ai]d act Did thairfore Declare the foirs[ai]d Testimoniall to be null and of no force nor effect. And that the same suld have no force or effect in tyme cum[m]ing within or without judgment. And that no Testimoniall any wayes different in substance or circumsta[n]ce . . . suld be valid . . .

And becaus of the said Andro Borland his presumption in giving out of the foirs[ai]d Testimoniall . . . The Pr[es]b[ite]rie ordaines him to present himself in the habite of sackcloath in the Kirk of cuilton in the publict place of repentance the nixt Lords Day and thair to give signes of repentance before the people for his said offence. And thairefter to compeir before the Pr[es]b[ite]rie that after tryell of his ingenuous profession of repentance . . . he may be enjoyned again to give signes of repentance in the Kirk of Ayr in the publict place and in the habit of sackcloath wpon a pr[es]b[ite]rie day before the brethren and people then conveyned.

And in mean tyme the Pr[es]b[ite]rie dis[c]harges and suspenses the said Andro from exercising of any publict charge in the Kirk of Cuilton any maner of way.

Laigland is later on stated to have used 'minassing speeches' and to have held a 'cudgell' over Borland's head.

[142] 1644, Oct. 23 . . . ane humble supplication given in . . . by andro Borland notter in Cuiltoun, q[ui]lk being read . . . the Pr[es]b[ite]rie did mitigate thair former sentence against him for his offence above expressit In respect . . . the said Andro had given signes of wnfained repentance in the Kirk of cuilto[n] in Linens . . . the Pr[es]b[ite]rie ordained him to be reponed to his office of Reader and shoollmast[er] in cuilton as before in all poynts from the q[ui]lk for his offence he wes suspensidit before.

[143] 1696, Aug. 5 . . . The Minister & Session being called in . . . they are enquired if they had a Schoolm[aste]r? anssred there was none because they had not a mantainance to give. its recom[m]ended to the s[ai]d Minister & Session to have recourse to their Heretors desyring th[e]m to burden th[e]mselves willingly for so usfull a work . . .

[144] 1697, Oct. 19. [Report dated 30 Sep. 1697.] We M[ess]rs Robert Patoun & John Hunter Ministers appointed . . . to visit the kirk, kirkyard dyke Manse & gleib of Coyltoun: Doe finde the kirk, & something belonging to the Manse, & the kirkyard dyke needfull to be repaired, & a midle wall to be built within the kirk to be a schoolhouse: . . . For building the mid:wall in one of the ends of the kirk w[i]t[h]in to be a schoolhouse, ane hundereth pound scots: . . . The clerk is appointed to give ane extract of the fors[ai]d visitation with a recom[m]endation to the Lords of the Thesaury (for obtaining a gift of the vacant stipend of the s[ai]d paroch) in the person of the M[aste]r of Cathcart who is to be countable to the Presbytrie that it be applyed to the effects abovementioned.

[145] 1703, Jun. 15. The minister & session . . . did inform the presbytrie . . . they have no . . . schoolm[aste]r settled according to law, . . .

[146] 1724, May 6. See [130].

[147] 1725, Jan. 27 . . . The heretors of Coyltoun to meet at Coyltoun with their Minister & M[ess]rs John Hunter & John Burnet & Charles Campbell of Barbiston elder . . . [See [15] for purpose.]

[148] 1726, *Jul.* 21 . . . as to that of a school in the paroch, the s[ai]d noble Lord [*i.e.* Cathcart] offered to give his assistance to have it gott done as the other heretors have agreed th[e]r[e]to . . .

[149] 1726, *Aug.* 17. See [66].

[150] 1727, *Sep.* 5. Mr Key informs that the most of the heretors of his paroch have signed for a sallary to a schoolm[aste]r according to law, & that he is in diligence to have the same compleited after Collonell Cathcart comes down from London.

9. CRAIGIE

Craigie and Riccarton separated 1648. Part of Barnweil (q.v.) added.

[151] 1645, *May* 7. They regrated also that thair wes no shole keiped at all in any of the paroches [Craigie and Riccarton], so that thair children wer not educat in Learning.

[152] 1703, *Aug.* 3 . . . being enquired if they had . . . a schoolm[aste]r settled according to law? anssred they had none . . . only th[e]r[e] was one th[a]t taught to read english in the paroch: . . .

[153] 1721, *Jan.* 31 . . . The paroches of Craigie . . . have no settlement for a schoolmaster at all: . . . and they appoint Ministers . . . to lay it before their heretors in order to their more easie going into the s[ai]d settlement without a legall pursuit, & if otherwise, to certify . . .

[154] 1722, *Jul.* 4 . . . The paroch has no schoolm[aste]r nor a legall sallary for one. And because severall other paroches, are in the lyke circumstances & that the presbytry had made some steps thereanent such as to know who had schools & sallaries suitable, & who not & their securities who had: the clerk is to look out the Minuts thereof & produce them to the presb[etry].

[155] 1724, *May* 6. *Not in list of parishes where there is "no sallary at all" or "no legall sallary."*

[156] 1725, *Mar.* 10. The presbytry appoints the Ministers of Craigie, Moorkirk, Dailie, Stair & Newcum[m]nock: to advertise

their respective heretors . . . to meet at their severall kirks upon the first day of April . . . to stent themselves in a legall sallary to a schoolmaster . . . & to provide a sufficient schoolhouse conform to law. And the presbytry appoint to meet at Craigie, the Minister M[ess]rs Robert Cuming & George Reid w[i]t[h] James Boyd an elder . . . and at each of the s[ai]d meetings an instrument is to be taken in case the heretors decline to lay on the s[ai]d stent; . . .

On 28 Apr. 1725 there was no report, "Mr. Robinsone being in sicknes," and on 10 Nov. 1725 the meeting was ordered to take place "tomorrow five weeks." On 22 Dec. 1725 reported the meeting "did not hold," and it was delayed till "the heretors of that paroch are in countrey when the session is up."

[157] 1726, *Aug.* 17. See [66].

[158] 1727, *Sep.* 5. M[ess]rs George Reid sen: & Joseph Carnochan & James Boyd in townend an elder are appointed to meet at Craigie with the heretors there anent setling a legall sallary to a schoolm[aste]r the last thursday of this instant moneth; . . .

Owing to the absence of Mr. Robinsone there was no report on 8 Nov. 1727, and on 20 Dec. 1727 it was reported that "in regard the heretors who were present did not comply . . . the Minister took an instrument."

[159] 1733, *May* 30 . . . Mr Robinsone . . . informs that the s[ai]d Heretors have agreed to cause build a schoolhouse . . .

[160] 1734, *Mar.* 12. The paroch of Craigie have fifty merks scots of sallary & can gett no more without a legall course . . . the presbytry is resolved to apply to the Commissioners of supply of the Shire . . .

[161] 1735, *Sep.* 2. See [74].

[162] 1739, *Mar.* 7. The heretors likewise agreed to impower John Brokie schoolmaster here to uplift the said sum and that he should have Ten shillings sterling for his trouble . . . [Estimate, dated 15th Feb., of cost of repairs to Craigie Church.]

10. CUMNOCK (OLD)

Included New Cumnock up to 1650 and between 1667 and 1691.

[163] 1642, *May* 19 . . . compeired Mr Andro Bryane shoolmaster and reader thair, and gave in a supplic[atio]n, for taking order

with his bygane stipends, (w[hi]ch wer not payed to him according to condition) and for tymes to come, q[ui]lk wes ten s out of every m[er]kland, Whereupon the Pr[es]b[ite]rie appoynted a commission to the nixt adjacent brethre[n] viz Mr George Young Mr John Shaw Mr John Blyth and Mr John Reid or the most part of them, to consider of the foirs[ai]d supplication, and to tak notice th[ai]rof. And that intima[tio]n . . . suld be published from pulpit, to the Parocheners, the nixt Sabbath.

[164] 1643, Aug. 23. This day Mr Andro Bryane shoolmaster at Cumnok being called wes required to present the Session book . . .

. . . Mr Andro Bryane Shoolmast[er] . . . presented a supplication before the Pr[es]b[ite]rie wherein he complained of the want of his stipend from sundrie of the heritors, as wes appoynted for his service, speciallie fra Garrive Knokshinnoch and Westland. The Pr[es]b[ite]rie . . . exhorted and appoynted the heritors debtfull to pay him all byganes.

[165] 1643, Sep. 13. [Consideration being given to the division of the parish] . . . Ordained th[at] the proces of this bussines suld cease wntill the kirk now standing be sufficientlie repared. The parochie planted w[i]t[h] a minister, and the present shoolmaster payed of what is dew to him for his service in tymes bygane . . .

Also that Letters be raised against the heritors debtfull for payment of Mr Andro Bryane shoolmaster at cumnok, for his bygane service viz ten s out of every merkland w[i]t[h]in the parochie of Cumnok, & that they be chargit to mak pay[men]t th[ai]rof. The Pr[es]b[ite]rie recommended these particulars to the session of Cumnok to be done w[i]t[h] the first occasion, Q[ui]lk Knokshinnoch ruling elder wndertook to do.

[166] 1644, Jun. 26. Compeired Mr Andro Bryane shoolmast[er] . . . and Elisabeth Wood parochenar . . . Elisabeth being interrogat what wrong the said Mr Andro did to her, affirmed that he bad her ly down beyond him in the bed, And becaus shd obeyed not his com[m]and that he Drew his knyfe to slitt wp her cloathes They wir summoned *apud acta* to co[m]peir the nixt day.

On 17 Apr. 1644 the "proces" had been ordered to be "sighted the nixt by the Pr[es]b[ite]rie," and on 31 Jul. 1644 the "brethren of Kyle" were appointed to examine the process "wpon Munday nixt."

[167] 1644, Aug. 14 . . . Mr Andro Bryane sholmaster in Cumnok . . . challenged for his scandalous cariage with Elisabeth Wood a

young Damosell . . . The Pr[es]b[ite]rie fand by the said Mr Andro his Deposition that he had behaved himself imprudentlie in his cariage with the said Elisabeth And thairfore ordained the said Mr Andro to compeir before the session of Cumnok and thair to confes his fors[ai]d imprudencie in offering to correct the said Elisabeth. He wes exhorted . . . to attend his shole and charge more faithfullie, and to walk more christianlie and circumspectlie heireft.

On 18 Sep. 1644 it was reported he had appeared before the session.

[168] 1645, Jun. 4. Mr Andro Bryan Sholmaster and clerk to the Session removed wpon censure. The minister elders and whole parocheners then present being interrogat what they had to say against the Dis[c]harge of his calling, and concerning his cariage & conversation declared th[at] the people wer not content with his cariage nor attendance on the shole, . . . he had not com[m]unicat these sex q[ua]rters of a year . . . he called two gentlemen of the parochie pernicious, mansworne Lownes, . . . he keiped wp the consignations for mariages, and redelyvered them not fullie to the owners, That he keiped a chamber by violence from the heritor, and refused, being lawfullie warned, ather to remove, or pay the bygane mailles, And that he warned the heritor to remove from his own house. The said Mr Andro being recalled and posed in all the p[ar]ticulars. The P[re]s[bi]terie fand not his ansrs satisfactorie, And wnderstanding generallie he wes *mala fama*, thought meit that he suld be removed by the session, and payed of his bygane feys before his removall, q[ui]lk wer endebted to him.

[169] 1695, May 29. The Heretors & elders of Mayboll paroch present a Call for Hew Campbell late schoolmaster at old Cum[m]nock to be schoolm[aste]r, precenter & session clerk th[e]r[e]: the presbytrie . . . being acquaint w[i]t[h] his qualifications to be sufficient for teaching a gram[m]ar school, doe concurr . . . Mr George Logan of th[at] ilk did protest in the name of the Heretors & session of Cum[m]nock . . . in regard . . . they were lesed (1) because he is under engadgments to Cum[m]nock paroch already as schoolm[aste]r (2) He was not in *bona fide* to enter any charge till he gett testimonials from the session of Cum[m]nock: . . . the Mod[erato]r in name of the presbytrie excepted th[at] Logan had no com[m]ission from the paroch or session of Cum[m]nock to represent th[e]m . . . 2do Logan protested that the s[ai]d Hew Campbell did not personaly appear before the presbytrie to receive th[ei]r approbation . . . to q[ui]ch the Mod[erato]r oppones

Hew Campbell was spoken to by a coram appointed by the presbytrie; . . .

[170] 1695, *Sep.* 25. Mr Wm. Muir schoolm[aste]r at Cum[m]no'k his testimonials are seen & approven, & being found qualified, he is allowed to teach a school in th[a]t place.

[171] 1699, *Feb.* 9. Jonat Mitchell in old Cumnock having confessed adultery w[i]t[h] Wm. Moor late schoolm[aste]r th[e]r[e] . . .

[172] 1703, *Jun.* 16 . . . They have no . . . schoolm[aste]r settled according to law.

[173] 1711, *Oct.* 24 . . . Mr Robert Trotar Schoolmaster at old Cumnock signed the confession of faith : & the presbytrie having gott an accompt . . . of the s[ai]d Mr Trotars good behaviour since he came there, & Mr Trotar having desyred testimonials . . . being resolved to leave their bounds. the clerk was ordered to give them accordingly.

[174] 1724, *May* 6. *Not in list of parishes where there is 'no sallary at all' or 'no legall sallary.'*

[175] 1724, *Jun.* 10 . . . Mr Robert Trotar being to leave old Cumnock upon a Call he has gott to be schoolm[aste]r at Dumfreis, desyred testimonials from the presbytry . . . : the presbytry having gott testimonials of him from the session of Cumnock, & which some neighbouring brethren to that place did attest about him ; the presbytry ordered the clerk to draw the same, . . .

On 8 Jul 1724 reported that testimonials had been given Trotar. (The statement is repeated on the same page.)

[176] 1726, *Aug.* 17. *See* [66].

[177] 1727, *Jan.* 18. The clerk is appointed to write to . . . Mr Meminn schoolm[aste]r at Cumnock . . . to sign the Confession of faith . . .

On 7 Mar. 1727 an excuse for Mcminn's non-attendance is accepted, and on 4 Apr. 1727 he is present and signs.

[178] 1738, *Mar.* 14. *See* [35].

[179] 1738, *Apr.* 26. *See* [36].

11. CUMNOCK (NEW)

Disjoined from Cumnock (Old) 1650, re-united 1667, disjoined 1691.

[180] 1697, *Aug.* 17. Mr James Jamisone schoolm[aste]r having testimonials from the Minister of Biggar, & having given proof of his ability to teach, and made profession of his principles to be according to these of this church in doctrine & government, & offers to sign the confession of faith q[uhe]n required, he is licensed to teach a school at New cumnock q[uhe]r he is invited.

[181] 1698, *May* 4. *See* [5].

[182] 1708, *Jul.* 14 . . . application was made on behalf of Mr Rott Sinclair who behaved in the capacity of a pedagogue to the Earle of Dumfreis & chaplain at Liefnorris for testimonials . . . & having produced testimonials from the presbytrie where he last resided, & having account from the Minister & session of Cum[m]nock & from neighbouring Ministers of his good behaviour, the clerk was ordered to give to him testimonials.

[Perhaps to Old Cumnock?]

[183] 1721, *Mar.* 8. *No 'school nor a sallary to a master.'*

[184] 1725, *Mar.* 10 . . . And at Newcum[m]nock, the Minister M[ess]rs John Steell & John Grant with John Beg of Dornhall an elder. . . . [For purpose see [156]].

On 28 Apr. 1725 reported 'not being agreed on there were instruments taken.'

[185] 1726, *Aug.* 17. *See* [66].

[186] 1727, *Jan.* 18. The clerk is appointed to write to Mr Miller chaplain at Liefnorris . . . to sign the Confession of faith . . .

Excused for non-attendance on 7 Mar. 1727.

[187] 1727, *Apr.* 4. This day Mr Miller at Liefnorris Mr Robert Inglis chaplain at Borland . . . were present & signed the Confession of faith & formula as its enjoyned by act of Assembly.

[188] 1729, *Oct.* 8 . . . Mr Robert Hunter chaplain at Liefnorris . . . to be present at the next Presbytry.

He preached before the Presbytery on 12 Nov. 1729 and produced extracts of his licence and testimonials from the Presbytery of Penpont.

[189] 1733, *Jun.* 27. [Committee in connection with glebe] . . . are also impowered to take proper measures for having a school & a schoolhouse, & a legall sallary to a schoolm[aste]r there. . . .

[190] 1734, *Mar.* 12. *See* [136].

[191] 1734, *Sep.* 4. [Report of Committee which met on 8 Aug. 1733, *see* [189]] . . . And as for a School Schoolhouse and legal Sallary to a schoolmaster nothing could be done In regaird there were but few heretors present and these that were present seemed inclined that Colonel Dalrymple should be first in that affair, and Declared that they were willing to join him. The Committee therefore recommended it to Mr Hunter to wait on him when he comes to the countrey and lay the affair before him . . .

[192] 1735, *Sep.* 2. *See* [74].

12. DAILLY

[193] 1642, *Jun.* 28. Concerning the shooldmast[ers] and Readers stipen being requyred it wes declared to be tuelf s out of every m[er]kland bot no certane obligment th[ai]rfore.

[194] 1701, *Jul.* 15. He [the minister] hath not a schoolmaster setled according to law, he is to endeavour to doe th[e]r[e]in als soon as he can.

[195] 1701, *Sep.* 10. [Carletone] The Lairds of Cesnock & Carletone & the Lady Kilhinzie th[ei]r chaplains were present & signed the confession of faith; oth[e]r chaplains & schoolm[aste]rs are to be advertised to doe it.

[196] 1709, *Jun.* 2 . . . the members of session . . . tell . . . they have no legall nor sufficient sallary for a schoolm[aste]r, (nor a schoolmaster at present), but th[at] by an agreement they had laid on a stent upon themselves.

[197] 1711, *May* 9. [The heritors] . . . asked if there was a school & a schoolmaster provided in a sallary conform to law? it was anssred there was none at all: & the heretors gave for their

reason that there was no need of a school in that paroch from the circumstances of it, the houses . . . being far scatered, & there is no accomodation about the church for the conveniency of the children who are to be taught: which affair is referred by the presbytrie till furdur deliberation th[e]r[e]on.

[198] 1724, *May* 6. *See* [130].

[199] 1725, *Mar.* 10 . . . And at Dailie the Minister M[ess]rs Alexr Kennedy Robert Alexr & William Cupples with John Tough an elder . . . [For purpose *see* [156]].

On 28 Apr. 1725 reported 'not being agreed on there were instruments taken.'

[200] 1725, *May* 26. Mr Charles Lawrence chaplain to Sir John Cathcart of Carletoun produced sufficient testimonialls bearing that he had signed for Confession of faith . . .

[201] 1726, *Aug.* 17. *See* [66].

[202] 1726, *Sep.* 14 . . . Mr George Campbell chaplain to My Lord Cathcart appeared & signed the Confession of faith . . .

[203] 1734, *Mar.* 12. *See* [136].

[204] 1735, *Sep.* 2. *See* [74].

[205] 1736, *Sep.* 7. *See* [29] also [30].

[206] 1740, *Apr.* 30 . . . to have a schoolmaster setled at Dailie according to law [the heritors] had pitched on Mr James Scott . . . [the minister] desired a Committee . . . to examine and take tryal of his ability to teach . . . the Presbytery did . . . appoint M[ess]rs Robert ffisher William Cuples John Adam and Robert Walker ministers with John Tough and Robert Carnachan ruling Elders whereof Two of these ministers and ane Elder is to be a quorum . . . and the heretors concerned are to be advertised . . .

[207] 1740, *May* 28. The Committee . . . Report that the heretors have agreed that Mr James Scot [be] schoolmaster there and the Committee having taken tryal of his capacity found him agreeable and he is to officiat as such there the said heretors having setled a legal sallary for a schoolmaster in all time coming.

[208] 1741, *Mar.* 4. Mr William Paton having represented that the heretors of his paroch intend to build a schoolhouse at the Kirk he desires a Committee may be appointed to meet with them. Accordingly the Presbytry hereby appoint the brethren of the class of Carrick with Mr John Adam ministers with John Tough and Robert Carnachan Elders or any three of the said brethren to be a quorum to meet at Daillie this day moneth with workmen to consider what may be the charge thereof and Mr Patoun is to make intimation of this meeting to all concerned and to report.

[209] 1741, *Apr.* 29. The Report of the Committee . . . anent a schoolhouse building was given in and read and approved . . . Dally Aprile 1. 1741. The which day met here Messrs Laurie Fisher Cupples Hamilton Walker and Adams ministers with Robert Carnachan ruling Elder as a Committee of the Presbytry of Ayr in order to have a schoolhouse built in a convenient place—After Prayer Mr Laurie was chosen Moderator and Mr Adams clerk—The Presbytrys Commission being read Mr Paton minister of Dailly informed he had made due intimation of this meeting to all concerned—Heretors called were present The Right honourable Sir James ferguson of Kilkerran one of the Senators of the colledge of Justice Sir John Cathcart of Carleton and Alexander Boyd of Pinkil Tradesmen called for compeared Andrew Wright joiner at Killochan Thomas Campbell in Burnside of Dalquharran John Rillie in Glenside and John Stewart in Carsloe masons who were approved by the meeting—Then 'twas proposed and agreed to that a house should be built for the School of Thirty foot length and fourteen foot wideness within the Walls with Sidewalls Six foot high having four Windows of Two foot and half by One foot and a half of the form of closs Sash Windows with a Hewnstone door—Also Two seats of firrdale for the Schollars running along both sides of the house from one Gavil to the other with a Dask also of fir dale before one of the seats of the same length and a fire vent in each Gavil—After which the above Tradesmen were appointed to go aside and make ane Estimate of the necessary expence for the above work. And after deliberation they gave in their report as follows To leading the stones from Kilkerran Burn Twelve pound scots To carrying stones out of the Burn that they may be accessible to horse carriage Two pound To Liberty of Road for carting the stones Three pound To quarrying and Hewing ffifteen foot stone for the door Two pound five shilling To building the wall being Thirty feet in length, Two stone Gavils fourteen foots wide Sixteen pound scots, To Thirty bolls Lyme for casting the house, Outside and inside, binding

Corners & Lum heads Nine pound To leading the said Lyme One pound Ten shilling To leading clay for Mortar One pound. To Three Cupples with their mounting Twelve pound To cutting and carriage of the Timber ffour pound To binding and puting on all the Timber Three pound To Cutting watles and leading them from Parkwood One pound To Scobs Twelve shilling. To casting divots two days Twelve shilling To leading divots One pound Sixteen shilling To two days puting on divot with serviceman One pound Eight shilling To ffourty Threaves straw Eight pound To casting the house with Lyme Two pound Two Chimneys Bats and Bands 2½ stones Iron with the Workmanship Six pound To thatching the house ffour pound To glass for ffour Windows ffour pound Sixteen shilling Oil chalk and lead Three pound Twelve shilling Eighteen dales for door, Windows and Seats Eleven pound ffourteen shilling Carriage of said dales Nine shilling Three hundred single plainshours One pound four shilling Lock & snick Eighteen shilling scots Workmanship of door windows and seats Seven pound four shilling Two pounds lead for running in the Bats ffour shilling Carriage of Oil, Chalk and lead Twelve shilling To tiring the ground for divot One pound four shilling To Expence for levying the money Three pound fifteen shilling scots We . . . [names &c of the tradesmen above] . . . declare that according to the best of our judgement the above is a just Accompt and Estimate in Witnes whereof we have Subscribed these presents . . . [date & signatures] . . . On which report they made faith in presence of the Committee Amounting to Ninety Six pound five shilling scots for materials and workmanship and Twentyseven pound fifteen shilling scots for service in laying down the materials which with Three pound fifteen shilling scots allowed for pains in collecting in the money makes in whole One hundred and Twentyseven pound fifteen shilling scots—'Twas furdre agreed to in the meeting that the schoolhouse should be built in the Northwest end of the Kirkyard at the door from the high way And that betwixt and the moneth of October next and Thomas Campbell in Burnside abovementioned was appointed factor, to uplift the money and put it in the hands of Mr James Scot schoolmaster to be kept till 'tis called on for Executing the work—closed with prayer . . . [Signed by Moderator & Clerk] . . .

[210] 1746, *Jan.* 1 . . . Thomas Campbell mason . . . having sometime agoe engaged with the heretors of Daillie to build a schoolhouse there and was authorized . . . to uplift the money from the several heretors . . . And the said Thomas Campbell being

dead since that time his son in law William Hunter has built the said schoolhouse and wants the Presbytrys Warrant to call in the said money to defray that charge. The Presbytry . . . do hereby agree to and nominate the said William Hunter to call in and uplift the said money . . . and if need be to use dilligence against the recusants.

13. DALMELLINGTON

[211] 1691, *Jan.* 27. Mr Alexr. Stevenson having writen a letter to this Presbytry recommending Mr James Stuart, Schoolmaster in Dalmellington, as one fitt to enter upon his tryalls for the Ministry, they appointed the said Mr Stevenson, and the Clerk, to prescrib him a text, & to hear his exercise upon it privately . . .

Further references to his trials: 24 Feb, 24 Mar, 24 Apr, 7 Jul (appointed to have a 'common head in Latine'), 4 & 28 Aug, 23 Sep (excused, the Water of Doon impassable), 27 Oct, 1 Dec.

[212] 1696, *May* 13 . . . Wm. Cargill . . . produced his testimonials q[ui]ch are approven, & he is allowed to teach a school there.

Described as schoolmaster at Dalmellington—29 Apr. 1696.

[213] 1701, *Oct.* 29. Mr Aikman & his session . . . have a schoolmaster & some sallary for him (tho not so much as the law requires) . . .

The same answer was given at the visitation by the Presbytery on 15 Mar, 1704.

[214] 1708, *May* 5 . . . the presbytrie appoints the Committee following . . . to receave the manse & officehouses from Mr Aikmans friends & Wm. Cargill schoolmaster there is to give them advertisment . . .

[215] 1720, *Jun.* 1. M[ess]rs John Hunter & James Lawrie junior . . . to take tryal of Mr Alexr Reid schoolmaster here of his sufficiency to teach the grammar & authors & report . . .

On 29 Jun, 1720, those appointed had not 'wholy overtaken it.'

[216] 1720, *Jul.* 27 . . . They took tryal of Mr Reid . . . & finde him qualified to teach the grammar . . . & report is approven. . . .

His testimonials were produced and 'sustained' on 24 Aug, 1720.

[217] 1721, *Jan.* 31 . . . as to . . . the manner of setling legall sallaries to schoolmasters . . . Dalmelington has about fourty pound scots . . . and they appoint Ministers . . . to lay it befor their heretors in order to their more easie going into the s[ai]d settlement without a legall pursuit, & if otherwise, to certify . . .

[218] 1722, *Mar.* 7. [Extract of Minute of Kirk Session of 4 Mar. 1722, engrossed in Presbytery Minute] . . . Extracted by *sic subs[cribitu]r* Alexr Reid sess : clk.

[219] 1723, *Jan.* 16. William Cargill late schoolmaster at Dalmelington aged fourtie eight years, married . . . Sarah Wight spouse to William Cargill late schoolmaster in Dalmelington aged about threttie three years . . . [Witnesses at trial of Polquharn & others].

[220] 1724, *May* 6. *Not in list of parishes where there is 'no sallary at all' or 'no legall sallary.'*

[221] 1726, *Mar.* 8 . . . Concerning schools & sallaries to schoolm[aste]rs according to law The paroches of Dalrimple & dalmelington are provided therein by their heretors since the last synod . . .

14. DALRYMPLE

[222] 1642, *Jul.* 14. Thair is ane Sectts shoole fund at the kirk.

[223] 1706, *Aug.* 21 . . . they tell they have no . . . school nor sallary for a schoolmaster . . .

[224] 1722, *Aug.* 9 . . . the paroch have no school nor schoolm[aste]r according to law.

[225] 1723, *Oct.* 30 . . . Alexr Crawford fors[ai]d accused by the s[ai]d sibilla Bowie of adultery . . . And it being surmised that Margaret Boyd his wife accuses herself under her present illness, of the guilt of adultery with [blank] ffalconer who was a teacher in that house & is now the teacher of a school at Ed[inbu]r[gh] the session of Dalrimple are to meet at Knockshinnoch because of her illness . . . to take her judicall confession . . .

[226] 1724, *May* 6. *See [130].*

[227] 1725, Mar. 10 . . . the heretors . . . are also to be advertised . . . to meet to lay on a stent for a sallary to a schoolm[aste]r, & for a convenient school conform to law . . .

Reported on 28 Apr. and on 26 May, 1725, that intimation had not been made of this meeting (in the second case because of the minister's illness); but on 16 Jun, 1725, intention of holding it 'if Mr Lawries health will allow' is stated.

[228] 1725, Jul. 14. The presbytry appoints M[ess]rs John Hunter Jon Mcdermeit Ja : Lawrie jun Robert ffisher William Coats John Key & Geo. Reid jun with the Minister of the place & John smith in Evertoun & John dick in Gyltreehill elders to meet at Dalrimple the tenth of August next anent getting a school settled according to law & a schoolhouse built . . .

On 3 Aug. 1725 it was stated committee was not ready to give in their report (meeting was to be on 10th however!).

[229] 1725, Sep. 1. The Com[m]itee appointed . . . report they mett but that few of the heretors mett that time & therefore that matter is delayed till the Earle of Cassills who is of considerable interest there & is shortly expected come to the country . . .

[230] 1725, Dec. 22. Mr Lawrie Sen. informs the presbytry that the heretors of his paroch have settled a legall sallary for a schoolmaster.

Repeated see [221].

[231] 1729, Dec. 24. M[ess]rs Robert ffisher William Cupples & William Patoun are appointed to take tryall of James Melevain schoolm[aste]r at Dalrimple, his capacity to teach the grammar & classick authors & report afternoon . . . they found him pretty well qualified to teach a grammar school and he being called in, signed the Confession of faith *in presentia* as other schoolmasters doe.

[232] 1735, Mar. 4. *See [116].*

[233] 1738, Nov. 1. The Report of the Visitation as to some reparations of the Kirk of Dalrymple was given in read & approven of the Tenor whereof follows. Dalrymple kirk 29th Septer. 1738 . . . Mr James Laurie was chosen Moderaror and James Meilvain schoolmaster at Dalrymple clerk . . .

15. DUNDONALD

Between 1651 and 1688 the lands of Crosbie were in Monkton Parish.

[234] 1642, May 23. Ordaines the Minister to recommend to the session the want of a Reader and shoolmaster, that some course may be taken for the provision of a mantenance to him, . . .

[235] 1701, Nov. 26. The schoolm[aste]r of Dundonald signed the confession of faith this day. There is no other schoolm[aste]rs nor chaplains within thir bounds But such as have signed the confession of faith already.

[236] 1709, Aug. 16 . . . there was a mutuall bond granted by the heretors for a sallary to a schoolm[aste]r, but there is some difficulty anent the raising the s[ai]d fund : concerning q[ui]ch Mr Lindsay is to speak to the Earle of Dundonald. And in regard its represented that the schoolhouse is in ruinous condition, the heretors present viz the Laids of ffullartoun, ffairlie, shewaltoun Garrick & Hilhouse desyred that the same may be visited by workmen ; . . . accordingly two workmen were called viz James Steell & John Rodman, & with Mr Rogers Mr Steell & Mr Lockhart were appointed instantly to visit the same, & report afternoon.

. . . The report of James Steel & John Rodman . . . they doe declare that one of the side walls, & one half of one of the gavells, & part of the other must be taken down & that for the building it up again will cost two pound scots for eight bolls of Lime, *Item* for comming [?] & Loading fourtie draught of stones, four pound scots, *Item* for building it up again twenty pound scots. *Item* for repairing the roof, two pound scots . . . The presbytrie did approve . . .

[237] 1711, Jun. 6. This day Mr John Baird Schoolmaster at Dundonald signed the confession of faith befor the presbytrie . . .

[238] 1716, Mar. 28. The presb[ytrie] remitt the taking trya. of Mr John Baird schoolmaster at dundonald his fittnes to teach, to the classe that meet for prayer at Tarboltoun. (He signed the confesion of faith formerly).

[239] 1716, Apr. 24. Reported that the brethren . . . took tryal of Mr John Baird . . . of his fitness to teach the grammar : And that they found him qualified, & that severall scholars under his

care have made good proficiency : the presbytrie approve the report, & allow him to teach in the s[ai]d paroch, or where he may be employed within thir bounds.

[240] 1722, *Mar.* 7 . . . they told they had a schoolm[aste]r & a sallary for him, the security for which was produced & read & it was found not to be a good security but very lame & wanting . . .

[241] 1724, *May* 6. *Not in list of parishes where there is either 'no sallary at all' or 'no legall sallary.'*

[242] 1724, *Sep.* 3 . . . & in order to have a legall sallary for a schoolm[aste]r settled (the most considerable heretors of the paroch being now absent). Therefor the Presb[yt]rie appoint the brethren aftermentioned to meet . . . for these effects viz M[ess]rs Andrew Rogers Robert Cuming Henry osburn Jon Hunter John Medermeit James Robinsone & George Reid Ministers with Andrew Brown of Knockmerloch & James Boyd in Symingtoun ruling elders. and befor the s[ai]d meeting Mr Roger is appointed to wait on the right Honourable the Earle of Eglintoun who is now an heretor principally concerned, to know his Lo[rdshi]p minde anent these things, or if he [wil]l please to appoint any in his name to be present at that time . . .

[243] 1724, *Nov.* 3. [Report dated 14 Oct. 1724]. The Com[m]itee called for the paper according to which the schoolm[aste]rs sallary is presently payed, & finde there is not a sallary for a schoolm[aste]r according to law & therefor the presbytry may take the common method as in lyke cases.

[244] 1726, *May* 25. Mr Robert Crawford student lately in Heriots hospitall, being called to be schoolm[aste]r at dundonald he produced a testificate from Mr Christy governour of that hospitall q[ui]h were full & ample : and some brethren having gone aside by appointment to take tryall of him as to his knowledge in arithmetick & a good hand of wryting because he designs not to teach Latine they reported he was capable to teach these & so is to enter to that school.

[245] 1726, *Aug.* 17. *See* [66].

[246] 1726, *Sep.* 14. Mr Robert Crawford schoolm[aste]r at dundonald . . . signed the Confession of faith . . .

[247] 1727, *Mar.* 8. This day Mr William Rae chaplain to the Laird of ffairly . . . appeared & signed the Confession of faith . . .

[248] 1735, *Jul.* 23. Mr walker informs that the schoolhouse at Dindonald needs to be repaired and desires a Committee . . . to visit the same and call workmen . . . the Presbytry appointed M[ess]rs John Hunter James Robisone George Reid senior and Richard Cunynghame ministers with Robert Orr in Monkton & James Boyd in Symontoun Elders . . .

On 14 Aug. 1735 Mr John Steel junior was added to the Committee.

[249] 1735, *Sep.* 3. The Report of the Visitation of the Schoolhouse of Dindonald was given in read and the workmen give in their declarations in two different schemes which the heretors have not declared their minds as to the choice. Therefore the Presbytry . . . appoint a Committee to meet there this day 20 days Vizt Messrs John Hunter James Robinson George Reid senior and Richard Cunyngham ministers and Robert Orr ane Elder. And Mr Walker is to make intimation to the heretors concerned to meet and make the said choice of either . . . And that they also Nominate a Collector to uplift the funds . . .

On 5 Nov. 1735 report said to be expected.

[250] 1736, *Feb.* 18. The report of the reparation of the schoolhouse of dindonald agreed to by the heretors was produced . . . Tenor whereof follows At Dindonald Septe 25th 1735 . . . Mr Cunynghame of Caprington appeared and in regaird he could not wait longer desired he might be marked as consenting to what the rest of the heretors agreed . . . he thought it would [be] proper to repair the present house . . . Captain Nugent of Newfield and John Mckerral son to Lady Hillhouse by Commission from the Lady appeared and gave their consent to the reparation of the schoolhouse in its present situation and to the fund laid on by the Workmen . . . But are satisfied if the Laird of ffairlie agree to build a new schoolhouse that the fund declared to be necessary for it . . . be uplifted and in that Event Consent that as much of the Churchyard as will be needfull for the new schoolhouse to stand upon should be taken . . . Mr Walker reported that the Right honble the Countess of Eglinton gave consent as manager and Tutor for her son to the forsaid Effect . . . The Gentlemen present choose Mathew Hay as Collector and Overseer and agree that the Timber & Lime bought to the schoolhouse be employed and taken at the price paid by the Session Which Report the Presbytry approved of.

[251] 1739, *Apr.* 26. Mr Thomas Walker represented that . . . and their schoolhouse were out of repair and therefore desired a Committee . . .

On 6 Jun. 1739 the report was delayed till next meeting.

[252] 1739, *Jul.* 4. [Report submitted and agreed to] . . . Dundonald 17th May 1739 Convened at the church of Dundonald M[ess]rs James Robinson John Campbell junior Richard Cunynghame and Patrick Woddrow Ministers with Mr Kelsoe ane Elder . . . After Prayer . . . the said Mr Thomson [? error for Robinson] was chosen Moderator and Mr Thomson schoolmaster att Dundonald clerk . . . Workmen being called there compeared William Leggat Wright sclaiter and Glazier in Irvine James Galt Mason in Irvine Alexander Cunynghame Wright in Ashenyeards John ffyndlay Wright in Barrassie . . . desired to inspect the state of the church Churchyard dyke and schoolhouse . . . the Tradesmen gave in ane Accompt of what they judged necessary for repairing the church Churchyard dyke and schoolhouse . . . Amounting in whole to Two hundred and ffourty Eight pound thirteen shilling scots money . . . agreed to add to the abovementioned sum Thirty pound scots for Wages to him [Bryce Blair in Burnside, as collector and overseer] and to the tradesmen employed this day and other incident charges . . . (Signed) James Robertson Modr Jo : Thomson Clk . . .

16. GALSTON

[253] 1697, *May* 5. *See* [87].

[254] 1701, *Sep.* 10. [Cesnock]. *See* [195].

[255] 1704, *Oct.* 10. Mr Roger informed the presbytrie that Mr John Reid a student of Theologie, & Mr James Greg schoolmaster att Machlyne were both guilty of the scandall of drunkennes at Galstoun; Mr Maitland is to cite th[e]m both to the next presbytrie being they reside in his paroch, & the presb[yt]rie discharge Mr Greg to officiate either as precenter or session clerk for the tyme till the s[ai]d scandall be removed, And Mr Roger is appointed to write to Mr Meldrum professor at Ed[inbu]r[gh] informing him of the s[ai]d Mr Reid his cariage in thir bounds, because he attends his lessons as a student.

Attempts to have Reid cited to appear before the Presbytery—
1 Nov, 2 Nov ('reported th[at] he resides in or about Ed[inbu]r[gh]').
6 Dec 1704; 3 Jan ('late schoolm[aste]r at Galstoun' cited, called but did not compear), 7 Feb, 11 Apr, 23 May, 20 Jun, 18 Jul, 1705.

[256] 1705, *Aug.* 15. Return from the presb[yt]rie of Ed[inbu]r[gh] anent Mr John Reid is that he is now removed out of their bounds, & th[e]r[e]for could not cite him. & th[e]r[e]for the presb[yt]rie desist for the tyme till they gett information where he is gone.

On 24 Jul. 1706 Reid guilty of 'Drunkennes confest by him befor the session of Galstoun' formerly to be cited; continued 17 Oct 1706; does not appear 27 Nov. 1706; continued 1 & 29 Jan. 1707; appeared 4 Jun. 1707, 'rebuked for his sin & his contumacy,' Edinburgh Presbytery to be communicated with; was continued on 30 Jul, 27 Aug, 2 Dec 1707, 7 Jan 1708.

[257] 1708, *Feb.* 4. Mr John Reid . . . compeired: & was rebuked presbyterially for his scandall of drunkennes, & exhorted to a more cautious walking otherwise his former guilt will be adduced to agravate his after scandall in order to censure.

[258] 1709, *Aug.* 16. *See* [62] . . . & Mr ffulartoun is appointed to advertise My Lord Cesnocks chaplain thereof.

[259] 1711, *Nov.* 28. Mr Andrew Roger told that Gabriel Allisone schoolmaster at Galstoun was advertised & waiting on who is subject to tryal as one that teaches Latine, . . . And having told he had some things to say anent him, he desyred that a few brethren might be present to hear the s[ai]d Gabriel & him. & if he give satisfaction therein its well. so the presbytrie appointed M[ess]rs Robert Cuming Henry Osburn John Hunter William Lindsay & George Campbell . . .

[260] 1712, *Jan.* 2. The Presbytrie having heard the Report . . . came to this issue that the said Gabriel be called in and acknowledge his fault in his rash angry and unsuitable language to and behaviour towards his Minister, and that he declare he is sorrie for it, and resolves to watch against such things: and further he acknowledge his prevaricating of late with his Minister . . . And that he declare his grief for being the Occasion of difference and trouble in the paroch. For all which that he be rebuked by the Moderator at the table, and that the Acknowledgment and rebuke be intimate to the Congregation of Galstoun. The said Gabriel Alason being called in, did judicially acknowledge the fores[ai]d particulars and profesed his sense of them, After which he was admonished . . . and exhorted to watchfullness and humilitie, which he promised to observe, . . . And the said Gabriel is not to officiate as session Clerk in that paroch till next Presbytrie.

And furdur the Presbytrie Appoints M[ess]rs John Hunter John Steel and James Laurie Junior to take trial of the said Gabriels fitness to teach a Grammar Schooll and if they be satisfied with him he is to subscribe the Confession of Faith. . . .

[261] 1712, *Jan.* 30 . . . Mr George Campbell reports he intimate Gabriel Alasons acknowledgment and rebuke in the Kirk of Galstoune and these appointed to Examine him as to his fitness to teach a Latine Schooll report they found him most unsufficient tho they used a great lenitie toward him . . . and he being called in this was intimate to him upon which he offered to be re-examined by the Presbytrie CORAM who proceeded unto a second tryal out of condescension to him and unanimously found no ground to alter the sentence past on the Report [*i.e.*, approve of it] . . . and he having objected that the Presbytrie . . . gave him ground to Expect he was to continue in the Exercise of his offices, It was answered they did so, upon supposition he should be found sufficient upon tryal and being found unsufficient for teaching a Latine Schooll they could not give the session of Galstoune any advice to continue him in his Clerkship to them of which that session only hath the disposal. Upon all which he protested and appealed to the Synod of Glasgow and Air . . . as being lesed by the said sentence . . .

[262] 1712, *Mar.* 5 . . . a Reference from the Session of Galstoune anent a Complant tabled before them against Gabriel Alason their Clerk bearing that notwithstanding the said Gabriel had been rebuked . . . and did promise to walk more humbly and watchfully . . . Yet nevertheless he hath directly contrary to his promise and the established order of this Church and . . . particularly the fifth Act of Assembly One thousand Six hundred Nintie Nine . . . most unwarrantably required proclamation of banns from the Minister of Galstone by a publick instrument in the hands of John Allan Nottar in Galstone on the sixth of February last tho still proclamation was offered in terms of the said Act. Next that the said Gabriel . . . required John Smith officer to the said Session also by a publick instrument to make the said proclamation, which he refusing without warrand from the Minister the said Gabriel then gave his orders to John Smith in Killknow to make the said proclamation in the congregation at the beginning of divine service, which was accordingly done by him on the Tenth of february last and for the second time on the Sabbath next thereafter. The session . . . upon consideration of the said information found them relevant to inferr Censure, and they

having considered the present circumstances of the paroch and the singularitie of this case . . . referr the whole complex affaire to the Presbytrie and also whither the said Gabriel shall be continued Clerk . . .

. . . They [Allison and Smith] being called compeared, and the said information was read . . . to which the said Gabriel gave in Answers . . . bearing That Whereas he and Mrs Isobell McClevain had made application to the Reverend Mr Rogers once and again in the moneths of November and February last to have their proclamation of Banns published which he still unreasonably refusing they were necessitate to take that course requiring him by a publick Nottar . . . and petitions that the Presbytrie would order Mr Rodgers to publish the said intended mariage the next Lords day for the third time . . . or at least to proclaim them thrice the said day, . . . [petition subscribed only by Allison] . . .

. . . Mr Rodgers answers . . . that he was earnestly entreated by the said Mrs Isobells nearest relations, not to give consent to the said mariage and considering the nearness of his own relation to her he could not proceed to give warrant for her proclamation unless either her freinds consent was made evident to him or that he had the Presbyteries order . . .

. . . And as to Gabriel Alason they [the Presbytery] found him censurable for his disorderly cariage as is above narrated . . . and did unanimously agree that he be discharged to officiate as Clerk to the said Session, and be required to deliver up . . . what Registers and papers as also what consignations belonging to them are in his hands . . . and that he be called in, and rebuked . . . for these disorderly steps in not making application to the Presbytrie for redress . . . but first required the Church officer of Galstone, to proclaim his intended mariage by a publick Instrument . . .

. . . And as to the petitorie part of his representation the Presbytrie appoints the proclamation of his intended mariage . . . to be made by the Church officer of Galstone three severall Sabbath dayes . . .

And as to the said John Smith. The Presbyterie considering his cariage . . . do find it most offensive and a great prophanation of the Lords day. Therefore they appoint him to be rebuked . . . at the Table and . . . publicly rebuked by the Minister of the place . . .

They being called in this was intimate to the said Gabriel Alason and he was rebuked accordingly . . . against which sentence he reclaimed, . . . and Appealed to the Synod of Glasgow and Air

... And as to John Smith the said sentence was intimate to him, which he peremptorily refused to obey but did not offer to make any appeall.

On 1 Apr. 1712 the Presbytery Clerk intimated that Allison's Reasons of Appeal had been received in due time, and arrangements were made for Answers to be drawn up.

[263] 1712, Jun. 17. The Synod having allowed a new Tryal to be taken . . . of Gabriel Alason . . . the Session of Galstoun gave in a Petition . . . bearing that they have had no Schoolmaster to teach their Youth of a long time, and even since the Synod he neglected to Apply to Minister & Session in order to the taking up a school again, since he was found uncapable and insufficient by the Presbytrie to teach and at his own hand ordered publick Intimation to be made by a Com[m]on officer at the Church door on the Twintie fifth of May last, Intimating that people might send their Children to his School. And that he hath refused to give up what Minutes and Consignations . . . were in his hand, . . . and withall that [t]he said Gabriel behaved himself offensively among them, craving that the Presbytrie would cause intimate their former sentence as to his insufficiencie that the Paroch may know the same, and that they may have liberty to call a fitt person who may be intrusted with the Education of their Children, that they be not lost for want of a Schooll, . . . The Presbytrie considered the Synods advice . . . and tho they have no ground to doubt the truth of the Session of Galstouns complent yet before they intimate their former Sentence they judged it safest to call him befor them to hear it . . .

[264] 1712, Jul. 9. [Allison did not compear and the Presbytery considered their decision of 30 Jan last] . . . Also they considered the Synods Advice . . . That a new tryal anent his behaviour . . . together with his diligent application as a Schoolmaster should be taken, and having lastly considered the Petition . . . given in . . . by the Session . . . The Presbytrie . . . Appoint that Intimation be made . . . that they did find him utterly insufficient to teach a latine School, and that the School of Galstoun be declared vacant. That the Heritors with the Minister and Session . . . may lay out themselves to provide a qualified person to teach a Latine Schoole there . . .

On 6 Aug. 1712 reported that decisions had been omitted to be made known at Galston; on 10 Sep. 1712 reported done.

[265] 1713, Oct. 28. Mr James Brakenridge who formerly resided in thir bounds having an invitation to teach a grammar

school at Galstone, the Minister there desyred the Presbytrie to appoint some . . . to take tryall of his fittnes to teach Latine : accordingly M[ess]rs Robert Cuming & John Hunter were appointed instantly to doe it & report.

The brethren appointed . . . report he did acquitt himself to their satisfaction : & he having produced testimonialls from the Reverend Presbytrie of Hamiltone (he having been doctor of the grammar school of Hamiltone,) from the threttie day of Decer jmvij^e & twelve to this time, they were read & approven : & after he signed the Confession of faith he was allowed to teach a latine school at Galstone.

[266] 1715, May 25. M[ess]rs Andrew Rogers & James Laurie junior are each of them appointed to advertise their schooomasters, & the clerk is appointed to acquaint Mr Maitland to advertise his schoolmaster that they may all be present next presbytrie in order to be tryed as to their sufficiency to teach the grammar, & th[e]r[e]after to sign the confession of faith . . .

[Schoolmasters of Galston, Kirkmichael & Mauchline respectively].

[267] 1715, Jun. 22 . . . Mr Maitland . . . did advertise Mr Robert Gilchirst his schoolmaster to be present this day. also Mr Roger advertised Mr John Campbell his schoolmaster, & they being both present, the presbytrie appointed M[ess]rs Robert Cuming & John Steell, to goe aside with them, & to make tryal of their ability to teach Latine. Mr Laurie junior reports that he advertised Mr James Stewart his Schoolm[aste]r to be present, who has sent up his excuse . . .

Mr Cuming & Mr Steel returned & reported that both Mr Gilchirst [Mauchline] & Mr Campbell [Galston] were both capable to teach the grammar : & they . . . did both sign the confession of faith . . .

[268] 1719, Aug. 5 . . . They inform they have a schoolm[aste]r one Mr John Witherspoon, (that had produced sufficient testimonialls to them from Glasgow) & is capable to teach the grammar but desyres he may be tryed by the presbytry as to his sufficiency : accordingly the presbytry . . . appoint M[ess]rs Mongo Linday & Robert Cuming instantly to goe aside & take tryall of him . . .

The brethren appointed . . . returned & report that they found him qualified to teach the grammar & classic authors. their report is approven.

[269] 1724, *May* 6. *Not in list of parishes where there is either 'no sallary at all' or 'no legall sallary.'*

[270] 1724, *Sep.* 3. Mr Andrew Rogers represented that one Mr William Dugan has been a long time schoolm[aste]r at Galstoun with him, & that the classe that meet sometimes there for prayer had heard him upon some private discourses & th[a]t they judged him fitt to be entred on tryalls for the Ministry but being inclined to remove from thir bounds he desyred testimonialls & recom[m]endation from this presbytry : the presbytry considering the s[ai]d accounts of him from Mr Roger & other brethren did accordinly grant the s[ai]d desyre.

[271] 1726, *Aug.* 17. *See* [66].

[272] 1738, *Mar.* 14. *See* [35].

[273] 1738, *Apr.* 26. *See* [36].

17. GIRVAN

[274] 1642, *Jul.* 20. *See* [139].

[275] 1706, *Jun.* 25. The presb[ytrie] findes there is no school here in regard the heretors will not pay a sallary to a schoolmaster conform to the act of parliament : they appoint the Minister to deal with them to pay the same without burdening their tennents th[e]r[e]with above the half part.

[276] 1721, *Jan.* 31 . . . as to . . . the manner of setling legall sallaries to schoolmasters . . . Girvan has an hundreth merks but the manner of setling it is not legall being the obligation for it is only personall on the present heretors & lyferenters . . . and they appoint Ministers . . . to lay it befor their heretors in order to their more easie going into the s[ai]d settlement without a legall pursuit, & if otherwise, to certify . . .

[277] 1724, *May* 6. *Not in list of parishes where there is either 'no sallary at all' or 'no legall sallary.'*

[278] 1724, *Jul.* 8 . . . They have one Mr James Johnstoun to be their schoolm[aste]r who teaches the grammar : he produced testimonialls both of his fitness to teach, & of his good behaviour ,

from the Reverend presbytry of Stranraer . . . & also from the session of Leswalt where he resided in their bounds, which were read & sustained . . .

Being asked as to a sallary for a schoolm[aste]r ? they anssred. they had not a sufficient sallary, nor is it legally secured what is in use to be paid : the heretors are to be spoke to if they will make up these defects without a legall prosecution.

[279] 1726, *Aug.* 17. *See* [66].

[280] 1737, *Jul.* 21 . . . M[ess]rs John Adam Mod[erato]r James Laurie Robert ffisher William Cupples William Paton and Hugh Hamilton ministers with John Tough John Dick and John Mchutcheon Elders [Committee for Manse of Barr] . . . and they are to take tryal of John Lymburner as schoolmaster now at Girvan.

On 7 Sep. 1737 Presbytery approve of the Committee's report (dated 17 August, 1737) 'their having examined James [note : not John, as given above] Lymburner in his sufficiency of teaching a Grammar School . . . and found him qualified.'

[281] 1739, *Apr.* 26. Mr Hamilton the Moderator represented that the Kirk and schoolhouse of Girvan need to be repaired . . .

[282] 1739, *Jun.* 6. [Report dated 5 Jun. 1739] . . . The Committee did nothing about the schoolhouse because the minister reports the paroch had agreed at owning themselves . . .

18. KIRKMICHAEL

[283] 1698, *Feb.* 2. Mr Ja : Gilchirst sen : produced the extract of ane instrument against the Heretors of his paroch shewing his orderly intimation given to all resident heretors, & wryting to none residents for th[e]r meeting to setle a legall mantainance for a schoolm[aste]r th[e]r[e]; such who have not done it (q[ue]ro) are not already provided are to doe it & bring in the lyke instruments *quam primum*.

[284] 1712, *Mar.* 5. This day the Laird of Kirkmichall came to the Presbytrie upon their desire and being asked anent the managment of the Intrest of the Mortification made by one of his prediccors for the behove of the poor of that paroch which he and the Minister of that Paroch are made conjunct administrators off. He gave Account that he had applyed the wholl of it for

the design . . . with which the Presbytrie rests satisfied . . . And being that he had formerly proposed that he would apply the intrest of that mortification for the Encouragment of a schoolmaster in that Paroch beside the legall allowance that the Heritors are willing to make up and that only whill it shall not be found the necessities of the poor (who at the present are well provided) do require it to be only applyed for them in order to the aftermanadgment of the said Intrest. The Presbytrie appoints M[ess]rs Alexander Kennedy and James Laury senior to meet with the Heritors and Session and particularly with Sir John Fergusson and that the said Mr Laurie advise Mr George Hutcheson and Mr John Hunter advise Sir Thomas Wallace and Mr John Steel and Mr Lockhart advise with Auchinleck upon this head whither the application proposed may be constructed an Alienation from the design of the Donor Altho it be ingaged by the proposer that application shall be made for maintenance, cloathing and buying books to the poor schollars at that Schooll and that a dwelling house and School shall be built on his own ground on his own expence, and they are to make report . . .

Reported on 21 May 'not being fulfilled the Appointment is renewed' and Mr McDermeit added to others nominated; report delayed 9 Jul, 6 Aug, 1712.

[285] 1713, Mar 11 . . . concerning the Mortification foresaid and its by gone Intrest thats in debate betwext the laird and the Minister and Session of Kirkmichall . . . both parties being present, they appeared as also Sir John Fergusson of Kilkerran and the Laird of Kilhinnie Advocates, being also Heritors . . . And without further entring on the merits of the cause. It was overtured by the said two Gentlemen that both parties might submitt the wholl matter to the Presbytrie for determination . . . both with respect to the Claim of bygone Anualrent of the said Mortification uplifted by the Laird of Kirkmichall and alledged by the Session to be unapplyed, And also anent the further Securing the said Principal Mortification and its Intrest for the time to come. Nevertheless of an Act anent the former, passt by the Presbytrie in favours of Kirkmichall, Extracts whereof are to be returned by both Parties that the said Act which is in minutes may be expunged. Both Parties did Judicialy agree to the Overture of submitting the wholl affaire to the Presbytrie, And for that end the two forsaid Gentlemen were desired to retire and draw up the said Submission to the Satisfaction of Parties and the Presbytrie will wait for their Return . . .

The Presbytrie being informed that Sir John Fergusson and Kilhinnie were gone to the Laird of Kirkmichalls house . . . they adjourned and after prayer went to Them, who being come there found the said Kirkmichall utterly averse to sign the same, and positively declined to do it. Nevertheless the Minister in the Session's name adhered to what was agreed to, and the Presbytrie seing they could not at the time do any furdur in this matter dismissed.

[286] 1713, Apr. 23 . . . the affair of the Mortification . . . & what hindered the accomodating that matter being some time spoken to, & the s[ai]d Kirkmichall having advanced that he could doe nothing therein without his friend the Laird of Langshaw who is titular of the teynds of that paroch: And in regard Langshaw is to attend the Lords of justiciary at Air next week therefor the presbytrie appoints M[ess]rs John Hunter James Laurie senior George Campbell & Robert Miller to meet then & there with Langshaw, where Kirkmichall & his Minister with some from the session of that paroch are to attend, in order to accomodate that affair in a friendly manner if possible . . .

[287] 1713, May 20. Petter fultoun schoolmaster at Kirkmichall being present . . . there were two brethren sent out to take tryall of his capacity to teach Latine, who returned & declared he s[ai]d he could not teach Latine, & that he did not professe it. therefor the presbytrie recom[m]ends it to the heretors, Minister & session . . . to provide themselves with a qualified schoolmaster, & that they provide him in a sallary conform to law.

Instructions to have him "tried" were given on 23 Apr. 1713.

[288] 1713, May 20. These appointed to meet . . . report . . . Langshaw consents that Kirkmichall shall pay to that session in behalf of the poor & for their behoove the annuall rent of twelve hundreth merks scots already Mortified, during his tack of the teynds . . . , but that this is not to be constructed that Kirkmichall is lyable for the s[ai]d principall soum, & that he, the Laird of Langshaw shall be conjunct administrator with Kirkmichall & the s[ai]d Minister & kirk session of Kirkmichall in being: & that the s[ai]d session must be easie to Kirkmichall in counting for bygone annuall rents . . . the Minister & ruling elder from that session, . . . were ordered to lay it befor the session to know their minde therein, & to tell them that the presbytrie can travell no furdur in this matter for an accomoda[tio]n: . . .

The attestation of the Synod of Glasgow & Ayr, dated 7 Apr. 1715, refers to this: 'the Synod disprove th[at] at page 342 paragraph

8th Langshaws report anent the Mortification of Kirkmichall without a remark upon it, & orders them to concurr with the session of Kirkmichall in time coming, as the synod have enjoined . . .

[289] 1715, *May* 25. [Parties to the Kirkmichael dispute having, on 27 Apr, been ordered to appear in compliance with the Synod's instructions] . . . there was presented a letter of excuse from him [Laird of Kirkmichall] which was read & sustained : . . . the presbytrie desyres to know if the proposall he mentions in his letter be the same that the session of Kirkmichall made viz Seeing the Mortification affects Kirkmichall to which Langshaw is titular of the teynds, that therefor the session first pursue Langshaw : . . .

[290] 1715, *Jun.* 22 . . . his [Laird of Kirkmichael's] return thereto was this day produced & read : which did not satisfie the presbytrie, it being in such generall terms. yet the presbytrie, to see if possible that affair may be gott amicably adjusted, doe appoint the Ministers who are to asist at the celebrating of the Lords Supper in that paroch shortly, to meet with that Gentleman & discourse him fully . . .

[291] 1715, *Jul.* 20. These appointed to meet with the Laird & session of Kirkmichall report . . . that the session (only) mett with them . . . (he being present this day did advance That his busines before a civill court obliged him to be absent that day) . . . This day there was given in a Com[m]ission to the Minister of Kirkmichall & Captain Campbell & John Dick members of that session, from the rest of their number to present a petition to the presbytrie desyring them to recognosce their act daited the fifth of March 1712 : wherein they alledge that (seeing they will be obliedged to pursue the s[ai]d Kirkmichall about that Mortification,) the presbytrie have materially discharged him of all the interest th[e]r[e]of to that time, & th[a]t it will militate against them upon the head of lesion in that pursuit : . . . The presbytrie . . . resolved to bring that matter to some ishue did . . . cite parties *apud acta* to the next presbytrie . . .

[292] 1715, *Aug.* 24 . . . the affair of Kirkmichall session . . . the presbytrie caused read the sessions petition . . . & the presbyteries sentence daited the fifth of March 1712 : & Mr Laurie presented an extract of the presbyteries act daited the 22nd July 1702 :* as also a memoriall signed by Mr James Gilchirst late minister there anent that affair . . . The Laird of Kirkmichall

presented a letter sent to him by Mr Laurie his Minister daited the 23 of May last, wherein he aledges the session there had agreed first to discusse their right with the Laird of Langshaw who offers to obstruct payment, by a title he has to the teynds assigned . . .

. . . the presbytrie having reasoned thereupon, It was overtured that two be appointed to wait upon the Laird of Langshaw . . . together with the Laird, & some from the session of Kirkmichall . . . to treat with him . . . th[a]t he may not offer to obstruct the payment of the s[ai]d teynds for the use specified in the Mortification, but that he may strenthen the poors title thereto . . . And upon this view that the presbytrie delay the furder consideration of the sessions petition . . . it carried . . . delay . . . the presbytrie . . . appoint M[ess]rs Henry osburn & John Steell to wait on the Laird of Langshaw . . .

. . . & the Laird of Kirkmichall promised . . . at lest that he would send a letter showing his earnest desyre, that this method may be agreed to by his friend Langshaw : . . .

Reported on 14 Sep. 1715, that those appointed to meet Langshaw missed him, he being called into Ed[inbu]r[gh] by the Lord justice clerk ; Messrs Andrew Rogers, Henry Osburn & James Laurie sen. were appointed to meet with him on his return.

** This minute stated there was a bond for 1200 merks, granted by Neill Montgomerie, of Langshaw, with the Laird of Hazellhead cautioner, to David Kennedy, late of Kirkmichael. Kennedy had mortified the interest for the benefit of the poor. The session said the Lairds of Kirkmichael, who had a 'tack of the teynds' from Neill Montgomerie, 'did burden the tack with the payment of the a[n]nual rent.' The Laird said there were several years' interest unpaid, £20 sterling being in the hands of tennants. He offered to pay what was 'restand' in return for using this money to build a little stone bridge over the Dyrock. The Presbytery thought this reasonable as, among other things, efforts to get the money for the poor would cost more than this.*

[293] 1715, *Sep.* 14. These who were appointed to take tryall of Mr Stewart, report they think him fitt to teach the grammar : which report was approven & he being called in signed the confession of faith coram.

Previous references : 25 May—see [266] ; 22 Jun—see [267], note called 'James' ; 20 Jul 'not advertised' ; 24 Aug 'to be advertised' ; called 'Mr William Stewart' ; 13 Sep 'Mr John Hunter & the Moderator . . . to take tryall of Mr William Stewart.'

[294] 1716, Aug. 22. [No further action recorded—18 Jul 1716.] There was a petition . . . from the session of Kirkmichall desyring the presbytrie might concur in some proper methods for an accomodation with respect to that busines betwixt the Laird of Kirkmichall & them, wherein Langshaw is also concerned : or that they may have accesse to proceed in Law, conform to act of synod . . . the presbytrie yet once more appoints a meeting in order to a friendly accomodation . . . the Committee to meet thereupon are M[ess]rs Henry Osburn John Steell James Laurie senior John Medermeit, & the Lairds of Enterkine & Achinleck : . . .

This meeting did not take place as Langshaw could not be present, but said he would meet the Presbytery at the Synod—19 Sep 1716 ; Langshaw to meet Presbytery 'tomorrow'—2 Oct 1716 ; Langshaw not having appeared case laid before the Synod—4 Oct 1716.

[295] 1716, Oct. 24. Anent the appointment of last Synod that this presbytry concur by advice & influence with the session of Kirkmichall in their processe concerning a Mortification . . . The Presbytry appoints the Moderator to write to Mr Dundas procurator for the Church to concur with the s[ai]d session . . . , & that the brethren who goe . . . to the ensuing Commission, deal with other members of the Commission to use their best endeavours to the obtaining of a just & speedy decision . . .

On 28 Nov. reported that members of the Commission were 'spoke to apart.'

[296] 1719, Oct. 6. There was a petition from the session of Kirkmichall anent their mortification contested betwixt Langshaw & them, now in dependance befor the Lords, that the presbytry would transmitt the same to the synod, that they would instruct their members from the respective presbyteries th[e]r[e]in to the ensuing meeting of the Com[m]ission to use their influence to gett that busines brought to a good & speedy ishue : accordingly the presbytry transmitts it to the Com[m]itee for Bills to come in . . . to the synod.

[297] 1720, Mar. 1. M[ess]rs Alexr Kennedy John Hunter & James Lawrie sen : are appointed to visit the grammar school of Kirkmichall betwixt & the first of August next.

Reported on 21 Apr, 1 & 29 Jun that it had not been visited ; on 27 Jul and 24 Aug 1720 the report was delayed.

[298] 1720, Nov. 8. These formerly appointed to visit the grammar school of Kirkmichall report . . . they finde the

schoolm[aste]r diligent, & the scholars had made good proficiency . . .

[299] 1724, May 6. The presbytrie . . . finde that of these that are present, . . . St. evox & Kirkmichall have no legall sallary. Therefor the presbytry appoints every particular Minister in their bounds . . . who have not a sufficient legall sallary . . . to take care to deall with their heretors . . . to procure a legall settlement conform to law & report from time to time herein.

[300] 1726, Aug. 17. See [66].

[301] 1729, Jul. 2. It was represented also that they want a schoolhouse, . . .

[302] 1734, Sep. 3. Mr Laurie represented that there is not a full or compleat sallary for a schoolmaster at Kirkmichael and that the heretors are satisfied to have ane Augmentation so as to have made a legal sallary for the Encouragement of a schoolmaster therefore the Presbytry . . . Appoint the Committee aftermentioned vizt Mr Alexander Kennedy John Adam Robert fisher and William Patoun ministers with William Stevenson of Barbeth and Charles Campbell of Barbiestoun elders to meet . . . with the heretors and others concerned . . .

[303] 1734, Oct. 1 . . . the Committee appointed to meet at Kirkmichael the 24th ultimo did. and Mr Laurie informs that since that time all the heretors (except two one of whom is at a good distance from this country and the other gave a verbal consent) have by letters under their hands agreed to have ane hundred merks settled as a constant sallary to the schoolmaster at Kirkmichael and that if more be found needfull they will not be averse from granting allowance for some more by a private grant but that no more should go into the act of presbytry . . . The Presbytry appoint that a bond according to the tenor of the saids letters be drawn up and presented to the heretors that they may subscribe the same and that it be put in the Register and ane Extract of it be preserved as a lasting document for the same.

On 30 Oct 1734 no account 'Mr Laurie being absent' ; on 11 Dec 1734 reported the heritors 'have agreed to a legal settlement for a schoolmasters sallary.'

19. KIRKOSWALD

[304] 1698, *May* 4. *See* [5].

[305] 1702, *Aug.* 12 . . . The only heretor present was Drumochrein who q[uhe]n the presby[trie] enquired as to a sallary for a schoolmaster conform to law anssred he was willing to contribute th[e]r[e]to conform to his interest.

[306] 1721, *Jan.* 31 . . . The paroches of . . . & Kirkoswald have no settlement for a schoolmaster at all : . . . and they appoint Ministers . . . to lay it befor their heretors in order to their more easie going into the s[ai]d settlement without a legall pursuit, & if otherwise, to certify . . .

[307] 1724, *May* 6. *Not in list of parishes where there is either 'no sallary at all' or 'no legall sallary.'*

[308] 1725, *Jan.* 27 . . . The heretors of Kirkoswald to meet at Kirkoswald kirk with their Minister & M[ess]rs Robert Alexr & Robert ffisher & John Tough elder . . . [See [15] for purpose].

[309] 1726, *Aug.* 17. *See* [66].

[310] 1735, *Sep.* 2. *See* [74].

[311] 1736, *Sep.* 7. *See* [29] also [30].

20. MAUCLINE

Muirkirk disjoined 1631 (ratified 1633). Division of parish agreed to in 1649 but the new parish, mentioned in 1672, must have ceased to exist by the end of the 17th century. Parish of Sorn disjoined in 1656, but new parish not erected till 1692.

[312] 1642, *May* 16 . . . Mr George [Young] declared that Mr Johne Gemmell thair Reader and sholmaster had dimitted his place : And that the session had aggreed with Mr Johne Greg sone Law[fu]ll to wmq[uhi]le Mr James Greg minister at Newmylnes, for supplieng of that charge wherwnto the presbeterie condiscended also.

[313] 1644, *Jan.* 17. Mr Johne Greg shooldmaster in Machling appoynted to have ane privat exercise the nixt day, Text john 10 ch. 27 v.

In this connection appears on 7 & 21 Feb, 7 Mar, 17 Apr and 8 May 1644 ; on last three occasions is descibed as 'expectant,' and on last 'sustained his Theses de judice controversiarum.'

[314] 1695, *Sep.* 25 . . . they want a schoolmaster their Minister & they are to lay forth th[e]mselves to get one.

[315] 1695, *Nov.* 20. The presbytrie having taken accompt . . . of one Mr Patrick Johnstoun schoolm[aste]r his qualifications for teaching, & having found him qualified, & his testimonialls being satisfying they allow him to teach a school att Machlyne to q[ui]ch place he is invited by these concerned.

[316] 1698, *Aug.* 24 . . . they had a school M[aste]r & sallary for him conform to law : . . .

[317] 1699, *Jul.* 5. Mr Gavin Houstoun schoolm[aste]r invited to teach a school at Machlyne, produced sufficient testimonials from the Mini[ste]r of Lochquhinoch & others of good credit signifying his christian behaviour & capacity to teach a grammar school ; & the Mod[erato]r & some of the presb[ytrie] having certain knowledge of the same he is allowed to teach in the place fors[ai]d ; he declared his willingnes to sign the Confession of faith when he should be required . . .

[318] 1701, *Nov.* 26. Mr Greg a schoolm[aste]r being in terms of setling (as such) at Machlyne produced his testimonials from the presb[ytrie] of Arbrooth q[ui]ch were sufficient : the Presb[ytrie] appoint Mr Gilchirst & Mr Cuming to take tryall of his fitnes . . .

Mr Gilchirst & Mr Cuming report as to Mr Greg th[a]t he hath the Latine tongue, & think he may be usfull to teach a school if he be diligent, the presb[ytrie] are to take cognition of him afterwards if He tarry in thir bounds.

[319] 1703, *Jul.* 14 . . . they have a schoolm[aste]r, & a sallary for him conform to law, . . .

[320] 1704, *Oct.* 10. *Mr James Greg, schoolmaster at Mauchline, guilty of drunkenness with Mr John Reid at Galston, removed meantime from position of precentor and Session Clerk—See [255].*

[321] 1704, Nov. 2. [Case postponed from 1 Nov] . . . Mr James Greg . . . confessed his sin of Drunkenness & rash swearing by his faith . . . for which he professed his sorrow . . . & being rebuked . . . he was exhorted to live more circumspectly for the future, q[ui]ch he s[ai]d he resolved through grace to doe which rebuke, the presbytrie appoints to be intimate by the Ministers of Galstoun and Machlyne from their pulpits . . . And the presbytrie considering that by a letter from Mr Maitland shewing that the s[ai]d Mr Gregs offensive carriage has been very afflicting to him since that tyme together with his sense th[e]r[e]of expressed befor th[e]mselves this day, they repon him to the exercise of his offices after the fors[ai]d intimation.

Reported intimation made as ordered—6 Dec 1704.

[322] 1706, Jul 24. The Heretors & Session of Machlyne having given a Call to one Mr James Stewart to be their schoolm[aste]r after tryal & approbation of the presb[ytrie] . . . the presb[ytrie] doe appoint M[ess]rs Ja: Gilchirst & Robert Cuming to take tryal of his fittnes . . .

The brethren appointed . . . report they think him capable to teach the grammar. And in regard he forgott to bring here his testimonials, Mr Maitland informs the presb[ytrie] he saw his testimonials both from the Mini[ste]r of Kilmacolm & from his regent q[ui]ch were sufficient, in q[ui]ch the presb[ytrie] rested: & he having signed the confession of faith befor the Presb[ytrie] he was allowed to teach a School at Machlyne.

[323] 1710, May 3 . . . the heretors & others . . . have invited one Mr Hugh Blackwood to teach a grammar school . . .

. . . M[ess]rs Mongo Lindsay & Samuel Lockhart report they took account of Mr Blackwood, & think him qualified to teach a grammar school at that place: & he is ordered to be present next presbytrie with testimonials from the paroch where he last resided . . .

On 24 May 1710 he produced his testimonials from Muirkirk and he signed the Confession of Faith.

[324] 1715, May 25. See [266].

[325] 1715, Jun. 22. See [267].

[326] 1719, Aug. 6 . . . They have one Mr Hugh Crawford to their schoolm[aste]r & a sallary for him. but because of his infirmity

of lamenes, the presbytry appoints M[ess]rs James Laurie jun. & Robert Miller to goe to his house to take tryal of his sufficiency, . . .

These appointed to take tryal of Mr Hugh Crawfords sufficiency to teach the grammar & authors returned & told, he is very well qualified for that office; & that he has signed the Confession of faith befor them. . . .

[327] 1720, Mar. 1. M[ess]rs Mongo Lindsay & Samuel Lockhart are appointed to visit the grammar school of Machline betwixt & May next.

Repeated on 21 Apr and 27 Jul 1720.

[328] 1721, Mar. 8. Mr Maitland informs that his paroch have an hundreth merks of sallary for a schoolmaster, but they have no legall settlement for it but use & wont.

[329] 1722, Mar. 7. Mr Robert Gilchirst late schoolm[aste]r at Machline having applied for testimonials from this presbytry while he was in their boundes, they were accordingly ordered to be given him . . .

Reported on 25 Apr 1722 that they had been given.

[330] 1724, May 6. Agnes Reid spouse to Mr Hugh Crawford schoolm[aste]r in Machline, being guilty of the sin of adultery with John Campbell sometimes in Galstoun . . . he & she are to be cited . . .

[331] 1724, May 6. *Not included in the list of parishes where there is either 'no sallary at all' or 'no legall salary.'*

[332] 1725, Nov. 10. Mr Maitland was asked as to the fullfillment of the Minute in May last about the session register which was in Mr Blackwoods hand. he told that Mr Blackwood has put it in a hand where he can command it at pleasure but that he has recovered none of the Minuts that are wanting & aledged to be in Mr Stewart & Mr Gilchirst late schoolm[aste]rs there, their hands and q[ui]ch falls to be ingrossed in the register since the time he was ordained Minister at Machline: he is to seek them out, & fill them up in the book with what is in his own hand as was formerly enjoined.

At the visitation of the parish on 6 Aug 1719 the session book was not produced, and it was said that many of the minutes (i.e., the drafts) were lost 'by reason that some who were their clerks went off & carried them with them, & their late clerk Mr Blackwood has

carried away both their register (i.e., the minute book) & what minuts he had, upon a difference betwixt them as to his sallary.' The session were reproved for this and ordered to 'recover their book & Minuts by pursuing him & settling that difference with him.' At the visitation of 12 Sep 1723 the session book was reported to be still in Mr Blackwood's hands, and 'severall of their Minuts were carried off by another clerk since his time, and others of them are in Mr Gilchirst their last clerk his hands.' References on 3 Nov. and 16 Dec 1724, 26 May 1725, showed that nothing had been done to recover the book and the minutes 'scattered among divers hands who were clerks.'

21. MAYBOLE

[333] 1644, Dec. 14. Mr Robert Wallace Mr William fullertoun Mr John Burne and Mr Hew Eccles appoynted to meit at Mayboill the 26 of this instant for setling of a stipend to the shole of mayboill.

[334] 1646, Mar. 4. Mr James Gibsone sholmast[er] at mayboill appoynted to be heard in his privat exercise the nixt day Text Rom. 5. 1.

References to remainder of his 'trials' before licence : 25 Mar, 22 Apr, 20 (called 'expectant') & 27 May, 17 Jun, 1 Jul, 12 & 26 Aug ('handled the com[m]un heed de Capite Ecclesiae . . . approven'), 16 Sep 1646.

[335] 1646, Oct. 19. This day the Pr[es]b[ite]rie renewes thair former com[m]ission for setling a manenance for the shoole of Mayboill in the persones of the Brethren formerlie appoynted . . .

[336] 1647, Feb. 10. Mr James Gibson expectant susteained his theses de Capite Ecclesiae, past through his tryals, & was licentiat to preach where he sould have a call.

References to his part in religious exercises at Presbytery meetings : 16 & 30 Aug, 27 Sep, 18 Oct 1648 (absent); 17 Jan (to preach at Riccarton), 28 Mar, 18 Apr 1649 ('expectant shoolemaster in Mayboill'). Present in Presbytery as ruling elder end of 1648 and throughout 1649.

[337] 1649, Aug. 15. This day being appointed to David Cunynghame to prove the points of his Lybell against Mr Wm. Scott, the pre[s]b[ite]rie did apoynt a com[m]itte for hearing the

witnesses, viz. Mr Wm. Cokeburne, Mr Tho Wyllie, Mr Wm. Fullertoune Mr hew Eccles ministers, and Jon Schaw of Dalwyne, and Mr James Gibson shoolemaster in mayboill ruling elders, . . .

Recapitulation of steps in process and names of committee—7 Nov 1649.

[338] 1695, Feb. 5 . . . Mr Ja : Gilchirst jun : Mr Stewart Mr Crawford & Mr Alexr Kennedy w[i]t[h] Mr Quintine Meadam ruling elder to visit the School of Mayboll . . . upon the 5th of March nixt.

[339] 1695, Mar. 6 . . . These appointed to visit the gramar school of Mayboll report that they finde the schoolmaster there unsufficient to teach : whereupon the Moderator is appointed to preach there upon a week day, & to cause warn heretors, magistrates, session, & heads of families to be present : & desyre th[e]m in the Presbytries name to provide themselves with another sufficient schoolm[aste]r.

Reported on 10 Apr 1695 Mr James Gilchirst jun. preached there and declared Mr Patrick Findlay 'schoolmaster th[e]r[e], was found unsufficient to teach a gram[m]ar school.'

[340] 1695, May 29. The Heretors & elders of Mayboll paroch present a Call for Hew Campbell late schoolmaster at old Cum[m]nock to be schoolm[aste]r, precenter & session clerk th[e]r[e] : . . . [See [169]].

[341] 1696, Feb. 5. Compeired some Heretors of Mayboll, . . . desyring th[a]t some may be appointed to visit their manse ; kirk kirkdyke, & schoolhouse : they th[e]r[e]for appoint M[ess]rs Sam : Stewart Patrick Crawford & Pat : Liston w[i]t[h] [Wm Kennedy yr of] Dalgeroch & Jon Meinder [in Kirkoswald] ruling elders . . .

On 4 & 25 Mar 1696 reported done, report delayed ; no mention of school in it—13 May 1696.

[342] 1696, Mar. 5. Hugh Campbell schoolm[aste]r at Mayboll not having obeyed the citations . . . to compeir befor the session of Cum[m]nock, Mr Alexr Fairweather is appointed to cause cite him to the next presbytrie.

Further citations ordered 25 Mar, 29 Apr 1696.

[343] 1696, May 13. The Heretors & elders of Mayboll . . . anssred . . . neither have they a schoolm[aste]r, . . . Mr Fairweather

is ordered to declare their school of Mayboll vacant, their former schoolm[aste]r having by his letter dimitted the charge, (being accused of the scandall of fornication he is fugitive from discipline) & the Heretors & session are desyred to lay forth themselves to provide another so soon as they can.

On 10 Jun 1696 Mr Fairweather said he had done as ordered.

[344] 1696, Sep. 1. Hugh Campbell *ut supra* compeired . . . denys the guilt of fornication w[i]t[h] [blank] in Cumnock . . .

He had not appeared at meetings of 13 May, 10 Jun, 8 Jul and 5 Aug 1696.

[345] 1696, Nov. 4. There being a sufficient Call brought in by the heretors & session of Mayboll to Mr Alexr Archbald to be their schoolm[aste]r (his testimonials from Leuchars q[uhe]r he was last schoolm[aste]r were produced read & approven) the presb[ytrie] appointed M[ess]rs Cowper & Ja : Gilchirst to take some tryall of him, . . .

[346] 1696, Nov. 5 . . . report they took some tryall of Mr Archbald anent his fittnes for teaching a grammar school : & finde him not so sufficiently qualified for the tyme, yet having a good report of him, being hopefull of his sobriety, & that he may improve : The presb[ytrie] thinks he may be entred to the school of Mayboll, . . . & they are sometye shortly after th[i]s to take ane account of his diligence ; they appoint two Minister[s] to tell him this.

[347] 1697, Mar. 31. Compeired Hugh Campbell *ut supra* who confessed the guilt of intemperance & particularly drunkennesse ; which deprived him of the use of his reason ; so that he believes he is guilty of fornication with Barbara Brown . . . he supplicates to be put to undergo censure . . . cited . . . rebuked for contumacy & guilt. . . .

He had been ordered to appear, but had not done so, on 4 Nov, 9 Dec 1696 ; on 4 Feb and 4 Mar 1697 steps preliminary to excommunication had been taken.

[348] 1697, May 5. See [87].

[349] 1697, May 5 . . . at old Cum[m]nock q[uhe]r that session was convened, befor whom compeired Hugh Campbell *ut supra*, he confessed . . .

The s[ai]d Hugh . . . for his more speedy absolution he desyres the favour of appearing twyce in one day because of the frequent vacancy of that place. The presbytrie . . . think it expedient it may be granted . . . if the session finde it not offensive to that congregation : And that the s[ai]d session shew all due moderation & calmnes towards the s[ai]d Hugh . . .

On 2 Jun 1697 reported that the session 'found it not expedient to follow' the Presbytery's advice 'as not being ane ordinary practice.' The Moderator is to write to Mr George Logan 'shewing th[a]t the presbytrie doe dislyke their cariage therein.'

[350] 1699, Jan. 4. Mr Cowper reports that Hugh Campbell *ut supra* compeired befor the congregation of Cumnock. . . .

Various references and citations in 1698 : 2 Mar ('for most part in vagrant way of living'), 28 Jul ('supplicated . . . to confesse . . . out of the ordinary place . . . refused'), 7 Sep (lesser excommunication threatened), 7 Dec.

[351] 1701, Jul. 16. Mr Alexr Archbald schoolmaster at Mayboll is to gett testimonials from the presbytrie.

[352] 1701, Sep. 10. [Kilhinzie] See [195].

[353] 1701, Oct. 8. There was a Call given in by the Heretors & others . . . to one Mr Wm Thomsone to be schoolmaster precenter & session clerk . . . he is remitted for tryall . . . to Mr Ja. Gilchirst & Mr Pat : Crawford . . .

On 29 Oct 1701 he was reported to be 'qualified for that work : th[e]r[e]for he is to enter to that charge.'

[354] 1706, Aug. 20 . . . They have a schoolmaster & a sallary for him conform to law, . . .

[355] 1707, Jul. 29 . . . for visiting the grammar school of Mayboll, the presb[ytrie] appoints M[ess]rs Alexr Kennedy James Gilchirst James Laurie & the Minister of the place . . .

See [89].

[356] 1709, Mar. 9. The classe that meets for prayer at Mayboll are to make a visitation of the grammar school in that place . . . & to enquir q[uha]t truth th[e]r[e] is of some imprudencies that Mr fairweather complains the schoolm[aste]r is guilty of.

Reported on 1 Jun 1709 that 'nothing culpable' found in schoolmaster's behaviour, that the pupils had 'made good proficiency,' a written report is expected.

[357] 1709, *Jun.* 29 . . . the proceedings of the Com[m]itee appointed to visit the gramar school . . . Mayboll the twenty eight of March jmvijc & nine years . . . Mr William Thomsons the schoolmaster being removed the moderator called up the scholars & put some questions to them, as to their master his instructing th[e]m in the fundamentalls of religion, his waiting upon the school &c. to all q[ui]ch they gave an favourable & satisfying ansr : after q[ui]ch they called in the schoolmaster & desyred him to give an account distinctly of his scholars, their proficiency in their studies q[ui]ch being done ; they called up those who were learning to read english & heard th[e]m read, & looked upon their coppies. As to these who were learning humanity, . . . [lowest class had had about three quarters of a year, second two and a half years, and third three and a half ; besides grammar the ' whole authors of the Rudiments,' Corderius, Erasmus, Sallust, Ovid and Virgil had been studied] . . . The Com[m]itee . . . found they had made good proficiency & were well satisfied . . . [Mr Fairweather alleged the school ' was reduced to a few scholars q[ui]ch was in part imputed to the imprudent management of the schoolm[aste]r ' ; it was pointed out that there was an increase of three as compared with the visitation in August 1707 ; Mr Fairweather also alleged that the schoolmaster, in the correction of some children had been guilty of some ' escapes in the severe manner of his correcting ' ; eventually he voluntarily withdrew his charges] . . .

[358] 1718, *Oct.* 22. Mr William Thomson schoolm[aste]r at Mayboll aged thretty six years or th[e]r[e]by married . . .

Repeated 11 Mar 1719.

Witness in case against Mr Fairweather, Minister at Maybole.

[359] 1724, *May* 6. *Not in list of parishes where there is either ' no sallary at all ' or ' no legall sallary.'*

[360] 1726, *Aug.* 17. *See [66].*

[361] 1736, *Jul.* 6 . . . it was told that the heretors had called a schoolmaster to the place one Mr David Dook and that he came cloathed with Ample Testimonials both as to behaviour and qualifications for teaching and that he is provided in a good sallary. The meeting . . . appoints M[ess]rs Adam and Coopar to take tryel of Mr Dooks sufficiency . . .

On 4 Aug 1736 reported that Mr Dook was found ' a very well qualified person for his busines ' ; the Confession of Faith is to be given to Mr Fisher so that ' Mr Dook may sign it when he recovers

to health ' ; this instruction to sign is repeated on 8 Sep 1736 ; on 1 Dec 1736 reported signed.

[362] 1736, *Sep.* 8. Mr Robert Fisher represented that there being no schoolhouse at Maybole he at the desire of the heretors of the paroch made intimation for a meeting of them, to lay on a fund for building one according to law : At which meeting there were present My Lord Kilkerran the Lairds of Kilhinzie Drumellan and Sauchrie who finding that the major part of heretors had not then mett. Therefore appointed Mr Fisher to lay this before the presbytry that they might apply to the Commissioners of supply or any five of them for stenting the paroch to build the said house in the terms of law.

[363] 1737, *Sep.* 7. The Committee appointed to Visit the School at Maybole gave in their report bearing that having tryed the proficiency of these that are taught the latine in presence of the Magistrats and diverse Gentlemen in the bounds doe find that they have made great progres in short time And find that Mr Doeg the master his method of teaching and educating the children is very agreeable & succesful. The Report was much approven.

The Committee, appointed on 21 Jul, consisted of the Moderator and Messrs Laurie, Paton, Cupples and Reid, sen.

[364] 1738, *Mar.* 14. *See [35].*

[365] 1738, *Apr.* 26. *See [36].*

[366] 1738, *Jul* 12. Mr Fisher having desired a Visitation of the Grammar school of Maybole, the Presbytry appoints M[ess]rs James Laurie George Reid senior William Paton John Adam and William Younger to Visit . . . on Thursday the seventeenth of August . . .

At meetings of 23 Aug and 1 Nov 1738 a report stated to be expected from Mr Adam.

[367] 1739, *Jun.* 6. M[ess]rs Adam, Coopar & Younger and the class of Maybole are to Visit the Grammar school there the Twenty second of August next.

[368] 1740 *Jul.* 30. *Same committee as in [367] with Mr George Reid senior to visit the school on 18th Sep.*

[369] 1741, *Jul.* 22 . . . a committee . . . to Visit the Grammar school of Maybole . . . the Presbytry appoints the class of Carrick with M[ess]rs Coopar Reid senior and John Adam to be there the Third of September next.

[370] 1742, *Jul.* 28. Mr Fisher having desired the school . . . should be Visited . . . The Presbytry appoints the brethren of the Clerk [? Class] of Carrick with the ministers of Ayr Reid senior Adam, Coopar and Younger to meet . . . Thursday come fourthnight . . .

[371] 1743, *Aug.* 10 . . . Upon a desire of Mr ffishers for Visiting the Grammar school of Maybole, the Presbytry appoints . . . the class of Carrick with M[ess]rs Adam, Coopar & Younger to Visit . . . upon the fifteenth day of September . . .

[372] 1744, *Oct.* 31. The Committee appointed to Visit Maybole school report it was done in presence of several Gentlemen in that bounds And that the Masters and scholars did acquite th[e]mselves to their and the said Gentlemens satisfaction.

The committee was the class of Carrick with Mr John Hunter and the examination was to be on 13 Sep—5 Sep 1744.

22. MONKTON AND PRESTWICK

Included lands of Crosbie 1651—1688, from Dundonald.

[373] 1646, *Feb.* 11. Apud Prestuik 13 januarij 1646 Members of the Committe Delegat by the Presbiteri to meit this Day . . . That he wreat a missive Letter to johne Hunter Reader, wherby he Desyred him to proclame himself w[i]t[h] the said Grissell Blak sooner nor the ordinar tyme . . .

[Trial of Mr Robert Hamilton, Minister.]

[374] 1698, *May* 31 . . . they anssred they had a schoolm[aste]r, but as to his sallary it was as yet [? not] so compleated, but that he should be sufficiently provided: . . .

[375] 1721, *Jan.* 31 . . . as to Schools, & the manner of setling legal salaries to schoolmasters . . . Mr ffultoun is to inform himself what is the sallary in Monkton & report . . .

[376] 1724, *May* 6. *Not in list of parishes where there is either 'no sallary at all' or 'no legall sallary.'*

[377] 1726, *Aug.* 17. *See* [66].

[378] 1727, *Jul.* 6 . . . They have a school & a schoolm[aste]r who has only fourty pound scots of sallary : which is to be under the presbyteries consideration with other paroches in the lyke circumstances, afterward . . .

On 2 Aug 1727 receipt from Laird of Adamtown of a letter 'bearing his willingnes to concurr with the other heretors about redressing what is wanting of a sallary for a schoolm[aste]r . . .'

[379] 1735, *Sep.* 2. *See* [74].

[380] 1743, *Jan.* 19 . . . That on the sunday he applied to Mr George Reid junior to call a meeting of the Elders after sermon, which by some how was neglected, and yet they met with Mr Blair in the schoolhouse without any intimation, . . . [Sir Thomas Wallace's complaint in rival calls to ministers].

23. MUIRKIRK

Disjoined from Mauchline 1631 (ratified 1633).

[381] 1642, *May* 18. And concerning a shoole he declared that thair was none, nor any maintenance thair for a schoolmast[er].

[382] 1711, *Jul.* 3 . . . they told they have no . . . schoolmaster . . .

[383] 1725, *Mar.* 10 . . . And at Moorkirk the Minister M[ess]rs Mongo Lindsay & William Maitland with Robert ffarquhar an elder . . . [For purpose see [156]].

On 28 Apr 1725 stated 'There was no report from the meeting appointed to be at Moorkirk.'

[384] 1726, *Jun.* 22 . . . They have no school legally settled ; but the heretors say they are willing to doe what is proper : Its recom[m]ended to them to hold a meeting . . .

[385] 1734, *Mar.* 12 . . . The paroch of Moorkirk is in a way to be settled in a sallary to a schoolm[aste]r without a legall course . . .

[386] 1735, *Sep.* 2. *See* [74].

[387] 1736, *Sep.* 7. *See* [29] also [30].

[388] 1737, *Feb.* 10. The heretors say they have schools in several places of the paroch but have no legal salary . . .

[389] 1737, *Mar.* 15 . . . As to schools being settled in a legal Salary to a schoolmaster in the several paroches that have it not. The Paroch of Moorkirk are fallen about to have it so settled.

24. OCHILTREE

Stair disjoined 1673 ; ratified 1690. See Barnweil and Coyllon (Gadgirth).

[390] 1642, *May* 17. The said Mr Johne [Blyth] declared that William Gillchryst wes thair Reader and shoollmaster. And that thair wes no exercise of prayers or reading on the weik dayes, becaus thair culd not ane audiorie be had in the clawchen, Bot only on the Sabbath Day befor preaching ; and that his mantenance wes onlie Thrie score punds money payed by the Laird of Capringtoun patron.

[391] 1695, *Feb.* 5 . . . Mr Jon Hunter Mr Jon Laurie Mr Roger & Mr Lindsay w[i]t[h] the Laird of Logan ruling elder to visit the School of Ochiltree . . . upon the 5th of March nixt.

Reported on 6 Mar 1695 done, and schoolmaster to attend next meeting.

[392] 1695, *Jul.* 23. Mr Wm Stewart schoolm[aste]r at Ochiltree . . . declares he owns the confession of faith to be agreeable to the word of God, & that they are the principles of his faith ; he is exhorted & required to attend ordinances & teach his schollars diligently in learning & instruct th[e]m in the principles of religion, & to convene & dismissee th[e]m w[i]t[h] prayer evening & morning all q[ui]ch he sayes he endeavours to doe & engadges to doe it furdur. The presbytrie are to enquir furdur anent him at their next meeting at ochiltree.

He had previously been cited to attend the next meeting on each of 10 Apr ('being valetudinary is excused'), 29 May (excused) 26 Jun ('th[at] session to cause th[ei]r beddall cite him').

[393] 1695, *Aug.* 21. Mr Matt. Baird & Mr Gilchirst jun : who were appointed to confer w[i]t[h] Mr Stewart Schoolm[aste]r at Ochiltree to know q[ui]a[t] are his sentiments of presbyterian Goverment who report it will be fitt th[at] he give it judicially who

being called thus declares it That presbyterian goverment is lawfull & agreeable to the generall rules of the word of God for decency & order in a christian form ; he is exhorted to diligence in teaching his school.

[394] 1695, *Sep.* 26. Mr Wm Stewart Schoolm[aste]r at Ochiltree his opinion concerning church goverment by presbytrie is to be advised with some judicious members at the ensuing Synod.

[395] 1697, *Nov.* 17. Mr Thomas Fleeming late schoolm[aste]r at Biggar being invited by Heretors & others in Ochiltree to be schoolm[aste]r there, his testimonials from Biggar . . . approven . . . the presbytrie appoint . . . M[ess]rs John Laurie & James Gilchirst senior to take tryall of his fitness . . . They report he is fitt to teach humanity, & may improve if he be diligent ; He is enjoined to shew a good example to the children, & instruct them in the principles of Christian religion, & pray at th[ei]r conveneing & dismissing ; & that he sign the confession of faith q[ui]n required ; all q[ui]ch he undertakes to doe, the Presbytrie allow him to teach in the fors[ai]d place . . .

[396] 1699, *Jul.* 26. The visitation of the school of Ochiltree is delayed till Sir Jon [Cochrane] be at home : & the schoolm[aste]r is not to gett testimonials till after that.

Repeated on 9 Aug 1699.

[397] 1699, *Aug.* 23. Sir John Cochrane . . . gave an accompt that Mr Cowper had receaved letters one or moe from some private hand q[ui]ch accuses Mr Tho : fleeming . . . of some grosse villanies the subscriptions of q[ui]ch . . . & some materiall purposes th[e]r[e]in were dilated ; q[ui]ch letters he desyres the presb[ytrie] to order Mr Cowper to give up & ane accompt of the mater obliterate with the persons names who wrote th[e]m th[at] he may enquire into the truth or falsehood of these alledged villanies.

The presb[ytrie] appoint M[ess]rs Hugh Campbell Jon Laurie Wm Maitland Mo : Lindsay & Jon Hunter to meet . . . & to doe th[e]r[e]in as they see cause, . . . Also they are appointed to visit the school, & the schoolm[aste]r is not to gett testimonials till th[is] busines be at an end.

On 20 Sep 1699 the committee reported 'they found difficulty' and 'could doe nothing' ; the matter is delayed till meeting in Glasgow when Sir John Cochrane hopes to be present. The committee also reported they visited the school 'q[ui]n they found very few schollers.'

The Presbytery, having, through Sir John Cochrane, received testimonials in favour of Fleming from the Presbytery of Chirnside 'in confirma[tio]n of the former,' decided 'to take advice of Mr Patrick Sympsone Mr Robert Wylie Mr Wm Dunlop mini[ste]rs & my Lord Halcraig ruling elder privately together with M[ess]rs Jon Laurie And Rogers Pat : Liston & Jon Hunter' (3 Oct); the Presbytery then decided to 'call upon Mr Cowper & Mr fleeming & exhort them both to lay aside all grudge, & particularly th[at] Mr fleeming carry respectfully in all things towards his Minister,' and that intimation was to be made to the Congregation at Ochiltree that 'Mr fleeming is free of all publick scandall during his abode in th[e]s[e] parts & th[at] it doth not appear to us that th[e]r[e] is any truth in th[e]s[e] reports' (4 Oct). The minister and the schoolmaster were exhorted as decided; it was further agreed that the intimation to the Congregation should state that 'Mr Cowper was not the raiser of these reports' (11 Oct). Intimation reported made (25 Oct 1699).

[A call for Mr Cowper to Kinfauns was presented (25 Oct) and delayed by the Presbytery 'to see if by any means Sir John Cochranes humour against him can be removed . . . & his circumstances rendered more easie' (17 Jan 1700). Mr Cowper is stated from time to time to be in bad health. Finally the Presbytery orders the parish to be declared vacant (12 Sep 1700).]

[398] 1700, Feb. 13. Mr fleeming schoolm[aste]r at Ochiltree . . . was required to sign the confession of faith q[ui]ch he did, & the clerk was ordered to attest his testimonials q[ui]ch he had gott from ochiltree session (by th[ei]r allowance)

[399] 1700, Mar. 13. This day Mr Thomas f Fleming . . . gave in a petition . . . q[ui]ch he complains th[at] Mr Cowper . . . had lately published a letter to his defamation: & desyres the presb[yt]rie would interpose th[ei]r interest to bring matters . . . to a furdur ishue. They appointed Mr John Lawrie Mr Cuming & Mr osburn . . . to understand q[ui]ther Mr Cowper had injured him . . .

Accusation that Mr Cowper had forged letters giving 'an accompt of Mr fleemings scandalous conversation in the south' said by the committee to be untrue; they found that Mr Cowper had not injured him, but 'endeavoured to vindicate himself of . . . the . . . forgery laid to his charge.' Letter from the Presbytery of Chirnside stated there 'were surmises of severall scandalous things in his lyfe' and a 'Rev. Brother wrote . . . offering upon his perrill to prove th[at] he was sub pessima fama.' Mr Fleming appealed to the Synod against the

decision (1 Apr). Synod appointed Presbytery of Chirnside and Mr James Borland at Bedrule to be written to (4 Apr). Sir John Cochrane appeared and complained Mr Cowper had broken his school by 'publishing papers . . . relating to Mr Thomas f Fleming.' Messrs Laurie, Roger, & Osburn with the Lairds of Auchinleck yr. & Blackhouse are to speak to Sir John 'to see if by any means they could allay him.' He must make any accusation 'scripto,' and 'because he had informed of no new thing' he was to be desired to await replies from Chirnside and Bedrule. Sir John agreed. A request by Mr Fleming for testimonials was delayed (1 May 1700).

[400] 1700, May 22 . . . returns from Churnsyde presb[yt]rie & Mr Borland . . . bearing an accompt that . . . reports did passe upon Mr fleeming . . . that he made ane attempt on another mans wife, & that he had entised young Ninewells to steall his fathers books to him, & th[e]n threatened & made him swear he should never reveall it, q[ui]ch the boy confessed to his great grief & sorrow on his death bed; . . . that to their certain knowledge th[at] his cariage towards the Ministers . . . was very insclent & uneasie. upon q[ui]ch Mr Cowper declared . . . he was sufficiently vindicated & exonerated from being the raiser of the fors[ai]d surmises.

Consideration of whether or not Mr Fleming is to get testimonials to take place at Ochiltree (19 Jun). Session said they had several things against Mr Fleming 'as rash & offensive expressions.' Mr Fleming protested against the giving of testimonials to Mr Cowper till he 'should disown & recant his expiscating of ill surmises aledged to his defama[tio]n.' A letter, containing accusations against Mr Cowper, and written to him by Mr Fleming also received by the Presbytery. Session to examine witnesses in support of their allegations and to report. Mr Fleming 'to make good what he aledges against Mr Cowper . . . & if he fail th[e]r[e]in . . . they will have no furdur regard to any other his protests so as to deprive Mr Cowper of testimonials furdur.' Mr Fleming protested against the Presbytery 'receaving any schoolm[aste]r to Ochiltree, or declaring th[at] school vacant, because he aledges his paction (with these concerned at his entrie) is broken & the tyme continues till Martimes next . . . The presb[yt]rie judged that affair was not hujus herj' (16 Jul). Three ministers to go to Ochiltree session 'to see if they could be clear to give Mr fleeming testimonials: or at lest to take all information . . . to facilitate the same' (17 Jul).

[401] 1700, Jul. 31 (2nd Session) . . . Session . . . still unclear to give Mr fleeming testimonials till . . . free of q[ui]ch they could lay to his charge . . . consisting of these following

articles. (1) . . . Mr fleeming s[ai]d he believed if Mr Cowper thought he would go to heaven Mr Cowper would not go th[e]r[e], witnesses Jon Mcerea in ochiltree miln & Margaret Robinsone his servant & Agnes Hamiltone now servant to Watterhead in Dalmellington. (2ly) That in or about May 1699 Mr fleeming s[ai]d he thought Mr Cowper had been a Minister of Christ, but he found he was a servant of the devill witnesses Mr Ja : Gilchirst junior & Mr Wm Rankine schoolm[aste]r at Air. (3ly) At Coyltone q[uhe]n Mr Boyd was ordained . . . s[ai]d he could be schoolm[aste]r of ochiltree in spite of Mr Cowper & all the devills in hell. witnesses Margaret Murdoch spouse to James Slowan in Coyltone paroch Jean Murdoch her sister & Margaret Muir spouse to James Hilhouse. (4ly) . . . he defyed Mr Cowper & all the rest of the Ministers of the devill. witnesses James Greg & Matt : Mccorkie both indwellers in ochiltree. (5ly) . . . Mr Cowper was a forgerer wittnesse Rot ffergushill of Burnockstoun . . .

Mr fleeming compeired & pretended to be willing to passe from all processe against Mr Cowper ; but the presb[etrie] found it necessary . . . that he confesse his sin in speaking falsly of Mr Cowper, otherwise to prove q[uha]t he had s[ai]d ; q[ui]ch he would not doe in these terms.

At their next meeting the Presbytery first considered the letter (read coram), written by Mr Fleming to Mr Cowper, containing such allegations as Mr Cowper's ' wallowing in the mire of fame polluting calumnies,' guilty of the reigning gangreen of evil speaking,' ' guilty of harbouring implacable hatred against Mr fleeming,' and of ' publishing notoriously grosse & groundleess lies.' Instead of calling his witnesses Mr Fleming ' threw in a new petition q[ui]ch the presb[etrie] judged to be a meer dilator ' and refused to read meantime. A protest, given in on 16 Jul, against Mr Cowper's repeating confessions, said to have been made by Mr Fleming to Mr Cowper, was dismissed as irrelevant. Mr Fleming then claimed he was defamed by Mr Cowper having written ' a long series of q[uha]t passed betwixt him & him called a deduction of matters betwixt the Minister & schoolm[aste]r of ochiltree emitted & published by Mr Mathew Cowper Minister at ochiltree &c.' Mr Fleming could not produce the document and his witnesses claimed not to know of it. For these reasons and because Mr Fleming failed to prove that Mr Cowper ' was either the author or spreader of the same ' the Presbytery decided nem. con. to assoilzie Mr Cowper and grant him testimonials. Witnesses to prove the second of the Session's charges were heard— ' Mr Ja. Gilchirst Minister att Newcum[m]nock aged about twenty eight years married ' and ' Mr Wm Rankine schoolm[aste]r at Air Aged about fifty nine years, married.' The meeting then adjourned (14 Aug 1700).

The Presbytery ' upon the whole did judge Mr fleeming a grosse slauderer of Mr Cowper ' and appointed him to appear before the congregation of Ochiltree ' at lest two Lords dayes in ordinary place of publick repentance during the tyme of fornoons sermon . . . & th[e]r[e] to be rebuked.' He was not to be absolved until he gave sufficient sign of repentance. He appealed to the Synod on hearing the sentence. (15 Aug. 1700).

Reported that Mr Lindsay is to intimate from Ochiltree pulpit that Mr Fleming, their late schoolmaster, was rebuked by the Synod (18 Feb 1702) ; reported rebuke intimated (18 Mar 1702).

[402] 1704, Aug. 16. The presbytries letter to Sir John Cochrane anent the planting of Ochiltree, & the application of vacant tynd for pious uses, was sent to him, in anssr q[uhe]rto . . . he advises the presbytrie first to plant Barnwell paroch, as to the latter that he hath mortified eightie merks scots of the vacant stipend to be payed yearly for mantainance of four english schools in the severall corners of ochiltree paroch, q[ui]ch with some addition he had made to the sallary for a schoolmaster that teaches the grammar, doth exhaust the whole th[e]r[e]of ; q[ui]ch anssr the presbytrie are to consider upon . . .

[403] 1704, Sep. 13. This day Sir John Cochrane compeired & gave a paper by way of precept upon John Murdoch session clerk at Ochiltree his factor, for vacant stipend payable forth of that paroch (whereof he is patron) as will be a fund : the interest q[uhe]rof being only to amount to eightie merks scots q[ui]ch is to defray the sallaries of four schoolm[aste]rs who are to teach english in the four corners of th[a]t paroch, & that the presbytrie see to the security of it to their satisfaction. the Minister that supplies first at ochiltree is to gett the precept accepted & q[uha]t further steps are necessary to compleat the same is to be more fully considered.

[404] 1704, Nov. 1. The presbytrie judge it fitt to delay their procedure as to the mortification made by Sir John Cochrane for the four english schools *ut supra* till they see q[uha]t ish the proposall anent Barnwell comes to.

[405] 1710, Mar. 15. Reported that M[ess]rs John Laurie, & John Steell took tryalls of Mr Wm Mitchell fors[ai]d, & that they found him qualified to teach the grammar : he is to sign the confession of faith . . .

Moderator instructed to write to Mr Mitchell ' schoolmaster at Ochiltree ' to be present for ' tryal ' (7 Dec 1709) ; repeated, as

Moderator had not written (18 Jan 1710); present but 'in regard the presbytrie had not tyme . . . they appoint the classe that meets at old cum[m]nock to doe it' (22 Feb 1710).

[406] 1713, Sep. 2 . . . M[ess]rs Andrew Rogers & Henry osburn were appointed to speak to the Lairds of ochiltree elder and younger (being both in town at the time), anent the present circumstances of the grammar school of Ochiltree, which used to be very flourishing, & now there is not one scholar there & its imputed to the person who was installed, his being employed about other busines of their concern. & report.

These appointed to discourse with the Lairds of ochiltree . . . report he [sic] desyres if there be anything to lay to Mr Mitchell schoolmaster there his charge, he may be prosecute thereupon, & sayes that they will take care that no busines shall hinder his attendance on the school if the people will send their children to it.

[407] 1719, Oct. 28. Mr Jon Hunter made report that he & others appointed did meet with Mr Cochrane of Ochiltree to discourse him anent the having the school in that paroch planted with a sufficient schoolm[aste]r. And that he engadged to have a fitt person looked out who would be satisfying to these concerned.

[408] 1720, Aug. 24. The clerk advertised Mr William Mitchell (who is designed schoolmaster here) as he was appointed after he was called he compeired, & having considered the Confession of faith, he signed the same . . .

. . . the presbytry appointed M[ess]rs John Steell & John Medermeit with Collonell Dalrimple & the Laird of Achinleck . . . to know why there is not a grammar school here being there is a considerable sallary to give.

Instructions given that he should be asked to sign the Confession : 1 Mar (described as 'whom Mr Cochrane keeps in as schoolm[aste]r') ; 21 Apr ; 27 Jul 1720 ('who is called schoolm[aste]r there').

[On 24 Aug 1720 it is stated that the session book 'is not in readiness to be produced, their late clerk being removed by death' —seems as if Mitchell had not been session clerk.]

[409] 1720, Nov. 8. The Classe that meets at Ochiltree are to call Mr William Mitchell designed schoolm[aste]r there befor them anent the s[ai]d school & they are to visit the same & report.

Report on schoolmaster 'not to be expected for some time' (21 Dec 1720).

[410] 1721, Jun. 28. Mr John steel informs he spoke with Mr Cochrane of Ochiltree anent the vacancy of a school there, & that he engadges to have it provided in a litle time.

It had been said to be vacant at meeting of 31 May 1721.

[411] 1724, May 6. *Not in the list of parishes where there is either 'no sallary at all' or 'no legall sallary.'*

[412] 1725, May 26. [Report dealing with glebe, grass & manse] . . . In testimony whereof (written by Mr William Mitchell Schoolm[aste]r at Ochiltree) we have subscribed these presents at Ochiltree the nintyne day of May jmvijc & twenty five years . . .

[413] 1726, Aug. 17. *See [66].*

[414] 1728, Feb. 27. The Minister & session of ochiltree are to enquir particularly in [sic] Mr William Mitchell, or any other that may be named, anent their fitness to officiate there as schoolm[aste]r : and that they speak with the heretors upon that head signifying how great a losse they are at for want of one where there was some time before a very flourishing school.

[415] 1728, Apr. 24. Mr George Reid jun : reports that he & his session spoke with the heretors of the paroch anent their being provided in a schoolm[aste]r & informs that Mr Cochrane & other residing heretors . . . are for continuing Mr William Mitchell . . . but that the people are against it because of some things that has been offensive in his conversation. But being told by Mr Maitland in whose paroch he was of late married & lived some time that his manner of lyfe is altered to the better : th[e]r[e]for the paroch . . . are to take a furdur tryall of him . . . till the next privy censures . . .

[416] 1728, Sep. 3 . . . Mr Reid informs that the session have as yet made no tryall as to what things are aledged offensive in Mr Wm Mitchells conversation ; because they thought his neglecting to doe his office . . . for above these ten years bypast ; & in the mean time lifting the sallary which the session look upon as a high pitch of injustice & is sufficient reason why he should be laid aside from being schoolm[aste]r there : The presbytry . . . appoints M[ess]rs Jon Hunter & Ja : Lawrie to draw a letter to be written to Mr Cochrane to prevail with him to gett the s[ai]d school agreeably setled very soon & to drop the s[ai]d Mr Mitchell.

[417] 1728, *Oct.* 1. Mr George Reid jun : informs . . . Mr William Mitchell had applied to him desyring he might be allowed to make new tryall of keeping school there, which he thought he could not comply with till he advised the presbytry. which they having considered doe advise that he be allowed . . . in the terms of the Minute in april last. & Mr Reid is to make intimation from the pulpit that Mr Mitchell is to enter or take up the school : & the session . . . are to take narrow inspection of his after behaviour & inform the presbytry from time to time.

[418] 1733, *Mar.* 6. The presbytry considering that the school of Ochiltree is now vacant for some time by the death of Mr Beatie . . . therefor they appoint M[ess]rs John Steell & David Cowper to speak to the heretors . . . anent their being provided in another sufficient schoolm[aste]r being they have a considerable fund to give to such a person.

[419] 1733, *Apr.* 25. M[ess]rs John Steell & David Cowper report they discoursed with Mr Cochrane . . . & that he anssred, q[u]e[n] the presbytry could finde a fitt person for th[a]t school he would concurr therewith.

[420] 1734, *Jul.* 3. [Repairs to Tarbolton Church—list of heritors and the proportion they are to bear] . . . Mr William Mitchell late schoolmaster at Ochiltree his valuation is Twenty five pound scots and his proportion of the stent is One pound ffive pennies scots . . . [List is in Committee's report, dated 13 Jun 1734. The name and designation appear again in this minute as liable for a proportion of a 'stent' agreed to by the Presbytery on 13 May 1733].

[421] 1742, *Mar.* 2. The Presbytry understanding that Mr James Tod has taught the school of Ochiltree for a considerable time judged it proper to try his Qualifications as a Teacher . . . They therefore having first called for his Testimonials which he produced from the Presbytry of Edinburgh appoint the Moderator [Mr John Hunter] and Mr Coopar in Auchinleck to take tryal of the said Mr Tod to morrow morning at the Moderators house and report.

On 3 Mar 1742 the committee reported 'that they judge he may be qualified for the office of Schoolmaster he is in.'

25. RICcarton

Coylton disjoined 1647 ; Craigie and Riccarton severed 1648.

[422] 1642, *May* 24. The parochinars wer appoynted to provyde mantena[n]ce for a shole at the kirk.

[423] 1645, *May* 7. *See* [151].

[424] 1700, *May* 22 . . . severall things were obstructed such as the setling of a legall mantainance for a schoolm[aste]r q[u]i[ch] they wanted . . . he [the Minister] had instrumented the heretors . . . conform to law . . .

[425] 1721, *Mar.* 8. [Report dated 16 Feb 1721] . . . they did choose . . . Allan Bowie session clerk of Riccartoun, to be their clerk . . .

[426] 1724, *May* 6. *Not in list of parishes where there is either 'no sallary at all' or 'no legall sallary.'*

[427] 1725, *Jan.* 27 . . . The heretors of Riccartoun & their Minister with M[ess]rs James Robinsone & Joseph Carnochan & William Miller elder to meet at Riccartoun kirk . . . [See [15] for purpose].

[428] 1735, *Sep.* 2. *See* [74].

[429] 1736, *Sep.* 7. *See* [29] also [30].

26. ST. QUIVOX

[430] 1642, *May* 25. They complained for want of Maintenance for a shoole q[u]i[ll]k wes appoynted to be represented to my L[ord] abercorn.

[431] 1699, *Aug.* 23. They say they have a school & schoolm[aste]r & eight bolls of meall for a mantainance to him.

[432] 1709, *Aug.* 17 . . . they have a schoolmaster that teaches english, & they have a Mortification of eight bolls of victuall for his sallary as such & his being precenter. & because they have no extract of the s[ai]d mortification, they are ordered to call for it, & keep it in their own custody . . .

[433] 1721, *Jan.* 31 . . . as to . . . the manner of setling legall sallaries to schoolmasters . . . Stevox has only eight bolls of victuall, . . . and they appoint Ministers . . . to lay it befor their heretors in order to their more easie going into the s[ai]d settlement without a legall pursuit, & if otherwise, to certify . . .

[434] 1722, *Jul.* 5. They have an schoolm[aste]r who teaches english & they have eight bolls of meall only for a fixed sallary to him. as for the security thereof Mr Miller is to be at pains to finde it out he being informed there was such paper extant befor his entry . . .

[435] 1722, *Sep.* 12. Mr Robert Miller informs he has gott the extract of the Mortification being eight bolls of meal purchased by their session out of their money alenerly to be a sallary to their schoolmaster which was done with consent of the heretors of their paroch anno jmvjc & sixty three : he is to produce it to the presbytry.

[436] 1723, *Feb.* 5. Mr Robert Miller produced an extract of a Mortification of eight bolls victuall payable out of the barrony of Achincroof as a schoolmasters sallary to the paroch of St evox which was purchased by the deceast Mr Wm ffullartoun Minister there & the members of that session out of the poors money (q[ui]ch was done with the consent of the heretors than living of that paroch) from the deceast John Lord Bargany : to which teyndis his Lo[rdshi]p had right from the Right Honourable the Earles of Abercorn & Angus : which disposition to the session is of the date the eleventh of March jmvjc & sixty five years & its registrate in the town books of Air the threttie day of May jmvjc & seventy two years which is the only fund they have for a schoolm[aste]r to teach english . . .

[437] 1724, *May* 6. See [299].

[438] 1726, *Aug.* 17. See [66].

[439] 1735, *Mar.* 4. See [116].

27. SORN (DALGAIN)

Disjoined from Mauchline, 1656, but new parish not erected till 1692.

[440] 1698, *May* 4. See [5].

[441] 1698, *Nov.* 2 . . . neither had he a school m[aste]r in the paroch . . . the Minister has given in ane instrument to the presb[ytrie] q[ui]ch was taken against the heretors of the paroch because they would not stent th[e]mselves . . .

[442] 1712, *Oct.* 21. Mr Mongo Lindsay reports he advertised Thomas Abercrombie his Schoolmaster . . . Thereafter the Presbytrie apointed M[ess]rs Samuel Lockhart and John McDermeit to take Tryal of him instantly . . .

M[ess]rs Lockhart and John McDermeit . . . report that they . . . find him Qualified to teach Latine, . . . After which the said Thomas Abercrombie Signed the Confession of Faith . . .

Intimation to him to appear given on 9 Sep 1712.

[443] 1725, *Jan.* 27 . . . the heretors . . . of Dalgain with their Minister & M[ess]rs Andrew Roger & William Maitland Ministers & John Beg of Dornhall ruling elder as a Committee with them to meet at Dalgain kirk. . . . [See [15] for purpose.]

[444] 1726, *Aug.* 17. See [66].

[445] 1727, *May* 31. This day Mr William Marshall chaplain to the Laird of Gilmulscroft : being advertised compeired & signed the Confession of faith . . . in presence of the presbytry.

[446] 1734, *Mar.* 12. See [136].

[447] 1735, *Sep.* 2. See [74].

[448] 1736, *Sep.* 7. See [29] also [30].

28. STAIR

Disjoined from Ochiltree 1673; erection ratified 1690. See Barnweil.

[449] 1721, *Mar.* 8. No 'school nor a sallary to a master.'

[450] 1722, *May* 31 . . . the paroch has no school nor a sallary for a schoolm[aste]r, . . .

[451] 1725, *Mar.* 10 . . . And at stair the Minister, M[ess]rs Henry osburn & John Key with Robert Brown an elder . . . [For purpose of meeting see [156]].

[452] 1725, Apr. 28 . . . The appointment to be at Stair did not hold Mr osburn not being there & Mr Key having mett with an accidentall fall from his horse in his going to stair. . . .

Appointed to meet 'tomorrow five weeks' (10 Nov 1725); reported the meeting 'did not hold,' appointment renewed for 3rd Feb next (22 Dec 1725).

[453] 1726, Mar. 9. M[ess]rs Henry osburn & John Key with Robert Broun an elder, and the Minister of stair are to meet at Stair the 17th instant, . . . anent having a school with a house & sallary settled according to law. . . .

Reported on 8 Feb 1726 'there is no account of any meeting was at Stair about settling a school'; as there is neither manse nor glebe and as the church is in need of repair Colonel Cathcart is to be asked to take a letter to the Earl of Stair who is in London.

[454] 1726, May 25. Reported that the meeting appointed held at stair . . . where an instrument was taken that there was not a legall sallary for a schoolm[aste]r agreed to conform to law.

It was moved & accordingly agreed to That in the interim Ministers would deall with their heretors to have schools provided in paroches that want them without being necessitate to obtain them in a legall way.

[455] 1726, Aug. 17. See [66].

[456] 1735, Sep. 2. See [74].

[457] 1736, Sep. 7. See [29] also [30].

29. STRAITON

[458] 1646, Mar. 25. [Charges against Mr Mccorne, Minister at Straiton] . . . To that of William Mure his examining of the people . . . he anssred that the said William wes Reader, and th[ai]rfore might examine, . . .

. . . his sending sumtyme William Mure ane wnliterat man, to examine the people, he being in the aillhouse, or going home to his sleip, proven by thrie witnesses. [Report dated 26 Nov 1645.]

[459] 1698, Mar. 2. Mr Alexr Kennedy produced ane extract of ane instrument against the Heretors of his paroch having orderly intimate for th[ei]r meeting to setle a sallary for a school m[aste]r

in th[a]t paroch. other Ministers who have not done it are to doe it so soon as they can.

[460] 1698, Jun. 29 . . . they s[ai]d they had a schoolm[aste]r, but had not obtained a legall sallary according to law as yet. . . .

[461] 1706, Jun. 26 . . . They have a school & schoolm[aste]r. . . .

[462] 1721, Jan. 31 . . . the paroch of Straitoun has only eighty merks of sallary for a schoolmaster . . . and they appoint Ministers . . . to lay it befor their hetetors in order to their more easie going into the s[ai]d settlement without a legall pursuit, & if otherwise, to certify. . . .

[463] 1722, Aug. 8 . . . They have a school & a schoolm[aste]r & a considerable sallary for him, . . .

[464] 1724, May 6. *Not in list of parishes where there is either 'no sallary at all' or 'no legall sallary.'*

[465] 1726, Aug. 17. See [66].

[466] 1734, Mar. 12 . . . The Minister of Straitoun informs that they have eighty merks scots of sallary to a schoolm[aste]r, and can expect no more sallary to him . . . the presbytry is resolved to apply to the Commissioners of supply of the Shire. . . .

[467] 1744, Oct. 31. [Report of Committee (Messrs Laurie, Fisher & Paton), appointed on 5 Sep 1744, to meet with the heritors on 10th Oct 1744] . . . At Straiton kirk the 11th of October 1744 After Prayer Sederunt . . . M[ess]rs Paton and Laurie With Mr Walker; Mr Laurie was chosen Moderator and John Smith in Straitoun clerk. The Commission of the Presbytery was read Appointing the meeting for laying on a legal sallary in this paroch to a schoolmaster Mr Walker informs he made due intimation from the pulpit And Wrote to all the Nonresiding heretors My Lord Kilkerran instructed Mr Walker to intimate his consent, there was read a letter from Doctor Stevenson Signifying his consent. Intimation was made by the Officer at the most patent kirk door of this meeting and none compeared except Barbeth who also gave his consent The Committee being informed by members of Session that there was not a legal sallary in the paroch in use & wont to be paid do therefore conform to their instructions and power committed to them Agree and

Appoint that the Sallary payable yearly to the schoolmaster in Straiton from this time forth shall be the sum of One hundred merks scots money to be paid yearly and termly to the schoolmaster, proportionally by each heretor according to their different Valuations within the Paroch. Commencing the first terms payment from Martinmass next to Martinmass One thousand Seven hundred and flourty five years The meeting concluded with Prayer. Signed Ja : Lawrie John Smith Clk.

30. SYMINGTON

[468] 1697, *Aug. 17* . . . th[e]r[e] is no legall mantainance for a schoolmaster, . . . Mr Gemmill is to advertise the heretors by intimation & these non-residents by letters That they meet & cesse th[e]mselves conform to law, otherwise to follow a legall course . . .

[469] 1703, *Aug. 4* . . . enquired as to q[uha]t Mortifications for th[ei]r poor, & utensills for the sacraments & a schoolm[aste]r for teaching youth they had ? anssred they had none of these, . . .

[470] 1724, *May 6*. See [130].

[471] 1725, *Jan. 27* . . . The heretors of Symingtoun & their Minister & M[ess]rs Henry osburn & John Medermeit & James Miller of Correath elder to meet at Symingtoun kirk . . . [See [15] for purpose.]

[472] 1726, *Aug. 17*. See [66].

[473] 1727, *Jul 5* . . . they have no schoolm[aste]r, nor a sallary to him, nor a schoolhouse. there being an instrument taken upon that last article . . .

[474] 1735, *Sep. 2*. See [74].

31. TARBOLTON

Part of Barnweil (q.v.) added.

[475] 1642, *Sep. 8*. See [127].

[476] 1644, *Dec. 14*. It wes Declared by the Minister that thair wes no schole at the Kirk for laik of mantenance, bot that thair wer two pitte shooles abroad in the paroeche.

[477] 1647, *Apr. 22*. Anent the setling of ane helper and shoolemaster at Terboltoune, the pre[s]b[yt]rie finding that the people had offered ane considerable proportion for the maintenance of both, and that sundry of the heritours were willing to contribute out of there owne means for furthering the worke; the pre[s]b[yt]rie thought fitt that foure hundreth merkes sould be the proportion, and to be contributed by the heritours, & Ordaned Jon Stewart of shawwood (according to the desyre of the heritours) to cast the Portion according to the certified valua[tio]n of the parish.

[478] 1695, *Dec. 11*. The Heretors & elders of Tarboltoun . . . were enquired . . . if they had a Schoolm[aste]r, & a fond for his mantainance, . . . ? made anssr they had none of all these; . . .

[479] 1718, *Aug. 20* . . . They have school & ane schoolmaster & a sallary to him conform to law but want a schoolhouse . . . And because the paroch wants ane schoolhouse as was represented, the presbytry recom[m]ends it to the heretors to provide one by concert among themselves, . . .

[480] 1718, *Sep. 16*. [Report of Committee 4 Sep 1718] . . . Mr Osburn gave in a petition from the session of Tarboltoun anent the want of a schoolhouse, . . .

. . . With respect to the schoolhouse & utensills such of the heretors as were present owned it was just these should be, but anssred they had never been required in terms of law to provide them. Therefor the Com[m]itee did not finde themselves in case to proceed any further in it but refers it to the presb[yt]ry . . . [Heritors having objected that they had not been legally summoned the Presbytery delayed the matter.]

[481] 1726, *Aug. 17*. See [66].

[482] 1731, *Sep. 8* . . . Lykwise they are to give testimonials in favours of Mr George Turnbull chaplain to the Laird of Enterkine, bearing that the presbytry had appointed some of their number to try his proficiency in his studies, & on their report he is thought fitt to be entred on tryalls.

[483] 1733, May 30. [Report of Committee meeting at Tarbolton, 22 Mar 1733] . . . John Alexr schoolm[aste]r of the paroch was chosen clerk. . . .

Further references : 'John Alexander schoolmaster of the paroch was chosen clerk,' also 'Collector for uplifting this present stent' with 'Twenty pound scots as his fie' (Report of 13 Jun 1734), 3 Jul 1734 ; 'John Alexander schoolmaster in Tarbolton clerk' and also collector who 'should uplift and see the sum applied for Rebuilding' (Report of 19 October 1738), 1 Nov 1738 ; 26 Apr 1739 ; 'chosen clerk,' 'Collector and that ffour pounds sterling be given for his fie' (Report of 11 May 1739), 6 Jun 1739 ; 'these presents are written by John Alexander schoolmaster in Tarbolton' (Report of 15 Jun 1739) 4 Jul 1739.

33. UNASSIGNED TO PARISHES

[484] 1710, Oct. 25. The clerk is appointed to give testimonials to Mr Robert Ker (now schoolm[aste]r at Stranra[w]er, formerly the bursar to this presbytrie) upon his demand.

[485] 1736, May 5. The presbytry is to take tryal of Mr William Campbells knowledge in the latine and Greek languages and to consider about recommending him in the afternoon.

'two of their brethren . . . found him expert in both' and the Presbytery 'recommend him as such where he may be called to teach and grant him Testimonials as to his behaviour while in their bounds' (9 Jun 1736).

III.—INDEX TO CERTAIN NAMES

Modern spelling used. Numbers refer to Parishes in Section II. above.

ch.—chaplain (sometimes also a private tutor), clk.—session clerk, coll.—collector (of assessment made on heritors), d.—doctor (i.e., second or assistant master), pr.—precentor, pe.—pedagogue (i.e., private tutor), r.—reader (conducted whole, or part, of church service), t.—teacher (i.e., non-parochial).

The schoolmaster often combined the offices of session clerk, reader and precentor. The title "Mr" generally indicated a Master of Arts.

1. SCHOOLMASTERS AND DOCTORS

Abercrombie, Thomas	27	Greg, Mr James clk. pr.	20
Alexander, John coll.	31	Greg, Mr John	20
Allison, Gabriel clk.	16	Hamilton, Mr John	3
Alston, Mr Thomas	3	Houston, Mr Gavin	20
Andrew, Robert D.	3	Jamieson, Mr James	11
Archibald, Mr Alexander	21	Johnston, Mr James	17
Baird, Mr John	15	Johnston, Mr Patrick	20
Beattie, Mr —	24	Ker, Mr Robert	33
Blackwood, Mr Hugh clk.	20	Lymburner, ? John, ? James	17
Borland, Andrew clk. r.		McIlvain, James	14
notary	8	McMinn, Mr —	10
Brakenridge, Mr James	16	Mair, Mr John d.	3
Brokie, John coll.	9	Mitchell, Mr William	24
Bryan, Andrew clk. r.	10	Muir, Mr William	10
Campbell, Hew clk.		Muirhead, Mr James	4
pr. in 21	10, 21	Rankine, Mr William	3
Campbell, Mr John	16	Reid, Mr Alexander clk.	13
Campbell, Mr William	33	Reid, Mr John	16
Cargill, William	13	Rodger, David	1
Crawford, Mr Hugh	20	Scot, Mr James	12
Crawford, Mr Robert	15	Stewart, Mr James clk.	20
Doig (Dook), Mr David	21	Stewart, Mr ? William,	
Dryden, Mr James	2	? James	18
Dugan, Mr William	16	Stewart, Mr William	24
Ferguson, Mr James		Stuart, Mr James	13
d. (later Mr)	3	Thomson, Mr John	15
Findlay, Mr Patrick	21	Thomson, Mr William	21
Fleming, Mr Thomas	24	Tod, Mr James	24
Fulton, Peter	18	Trotar, Mr Robert	10
Gemmell, Mr John r.	20	Wallace, Mr William	3
Gibson, Mr James	21	Wason, Adam	2
Gilchrist, Mr Robert clk.	20	Wilson, John	3
Gilchrist, William r.	24	Witherspoon, Mr John	16

2. CHAPLAINS AND PEDAGOGUES (not already listed)

Aiken, Mr Edward ch.	2	Marshall, Mr William ch.	27
Campbell, Mr George ch.	12	Miller, Mr — ch.	11
Falconer, — t.	14	Rae, Mr William ch.	15
Hunter, Mr Robert ch.	11	Sinclair, Mr Robert ch. pe.	11
Inglis, Mr Robert ch.	11	Turnbull, Mr George ch.	31
Lawrence, Mr Charles ch.	12		

3. SESSION CLERKS, READERS AND PRECENTORS (not already listed)

Bowie, Allan	clk.	25	Smyth, Mr William	clk.	
Mure, William	r.	29	r. (musician)		3
Hunter, John	r.	22	Thomas, A.	clk.	4
Murdoch, John	clk. factor	24			

IV.—NOTES

1. SOURCES

Manuscript foolscap volumes of Ayr Presbytery Registers (*i.e.*, minute books):—

- (1) 20 Apr 1642—22 Jan 1651 (sederunt only). 410 pages not numbered, 388 of which are minutes. Gothic script.
- (2) 3 Aug 1687—14 Mar 1705 (attested 9 May 1706). 441 numbered pages, first 39½ in italic, remainder gothic.
- (3) 28 Mar 1705—7 May 1719 (attested 5 Apr 1722). 570 numbered pages, all of which gothic, except a total of 29 in italic.
- (4) 10 Jun 1719—3 Oct 1732 (attested 2 Oct 1734). 468 numbered pages, all in gothic.
- (5) 18 Oct 1732—12 Mar 1746. 373 numbered pages of minutes (duplication of no. 349); numerous blank, or partially blank, pages; p. 9, 10 missing. First 57 in gothic, remainder in modern script (with long initial and medial 's').

I have to thank the Presbytery of Ayr for allowing me to have access to these minute books.

Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ 3, 8.

Critical Examination of Fasti (Kilmarnock Standard 1921).

2. TRANSCRIPTION

In general the rules laid down by the *Institute of Historical Research* followed: abbreviations extended; spelling and punctuation retained though, because of fading, may be uncertainty in latter case; letter *thorn*, and letter 'y' used for it, rendered th; no distinction made between long and final 's.'

Obvious errors (*e.g.*, duplication of words) corrected, and anything not in original enclosed in [].

Unless otherwise stated or implicit, dates are those of the meeting of Presbytery, and references to schools and schoolmasters are to the Parish concerned.

3. GLOSSARY

Some terms which may puzzle or even mislead are given here:—

Act—decision (of Presbytery, &c.).

Cariage—(of a person) behaviour.

Class—Parishes in the Presbytery were grouped into districts, the ministers in each district forming the class and meeting in rotation in the different parishes for prayer and discussion; they often acted as committees.

Commissioners (of supply) of the shire—set up in 1667 to levy land tax; by Act of 1696 empowered to establish a school and fix a salary, where the heritors refused.

Conversation—behaviour.

Diligence, to use—take necessary legal steps, sue.

Heritors (heretors)—landowners.

Instruments, to take—obtain a formal document in proof of any deed of a court.

Lesed—wronged.

Paroch—parish.

Plant—provide a parish with a minister.

Qu—w.

Referred—postponed.

Revise, reviser—inspect (books), one who inspects.

Settle—fix in a legal manner.

Stent—assess.

Sufficient—properly qualified (schoolmaster), fulfilling the legal requirements (salary).

Visit ; visitation—inspect, enquire into ; inspection, enquiry ;
(building, book).

Want (a schoolmaster)—to be without.