Birsay bove the hill April the 22th 1818

The Constitutional Associate Session met and was constituted with prayer by the Revd Robin Shaw Moderator; - there being present Peter Spence Hugh Miller George Moar James Bias Wm Bias Ceasar Johnston Oliver Johnston John Moar George Hourston members of Session.

They proceeded to the case of Cathrine Hunton charged with the sin of adultery with James Sabiston. Being examined she acknowledged the guilt, and that the father took with it, that she had the child nursing and that the father provides for it. She acknowledged three acts of guilt, but denied any attempts to procure abortion. Her husband presently resides in Hudson's Bay and has not as yet been informed about the circumstance. She expressed a sense of and sorrow for guilt and her desire to submit to the discipline of the church. This being read to her she adhered to it as her confession. The Sess. thereupon unanimously agreed to refer the matter to the Presbytery.

The Session proceeded next to the case of Ann Johnston who was charged with the sin of fornication with the Revd Archibald Willison. Which upon examination she confessed. She acknowledged two acts of guilt but denied any attempts to procure an abortion. She being removed the session agreed to admit her to give satisfaction & appointed her to be rebuked on the forth Sabbath of April and to be admonished on the first Sabbath of May, and concluded with prayer.

Birsay Above the hill May the 6th 1818

The constitutional Associate Session met and was constituted with prayer by the Revd Robert Shaw moderator there being present, Peter Spence, Caesar Johnston, John Moar and others members of the session.

They proceeded to the further consideration of the case of Ann Johnston formerly charged with the sin of fornication, being called she compeared and gave satisfactory answers to the questions put to her and the session agreed that she should be absolved on the second sabbath of May & concluded with prayer.

Birsay bove the hill Nov 24th 1818

The constitutional Associate Session met and was constituted with prayer by the Revd Patrick McHinzie moderator there being present George Hourston, George Moar, Peter Spence, James Bias, Wm Bias, George Flett, Magnus Flett, Caesar Johnston, Oliver Johnston, John Moar, Hugh Miller members of the session.

The Moderator then entered into a conversation with the session respecting what they thought they would give to support a Minister among them in this congregation And the session agreed that they would give £65 and a cow's grass & a free house & his fireing provided annually, & that if they got some debts paid under which they had been involved they would advance something more according to their ability. And closed with prayer.

Birsay Bove the hill Nov the 25th 1818

The Constitutional Associate session met and was constituted with prayer by the Revd Patrick McHinzie moderator there being present Peter Spence, George Moar, George Flett, George Hourston, Magnus Flett, James Bias, Wm Bias, Caesar Johnston, John Moar, Hugh Millar members of the session.

They proceeded to the further consideration of the case of Catharine Huntow, formerly convicted before them of the scandalous sin of Adultery. The session upon examination finding her conduct & exercise very unsatisfactory, they were shut up to do nothing further in her case at present. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay bove the hill June the 28th 1819

The Constitutional Associate session met and was constituted with prayer by the Revd James Cairncross, moderator there being present James Bias, Peter Spence, George Moar, Hugh Miller, Magnus Flett, John Moar members of session. They proceeded to the consideration of a petition presented to the session from the constitutional Association Congregation in Thurso praying for a supply of sermon by the Revd James Cairncross for a few Sabbaths in that Congregation.

After considering the same the session unanimously agreed that the prayer of the petition be granted to the extent of those sabbaths supply and they judge the third and fourth sabbaths of July & the first sabbath of august insuing most convenient for that purpose. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay bove the hill Oct 20th 1819

The constitutional associate session met and was constituted with prayer by the reverend James Cairncross Moderator, there being present Wm Bias, Peter Spence, James Bias, George Flett, Caesar Johnston, Oliver Johnston, John Moar members of session.

The session proceeded to the case of Isabella Stickler charged with the sin of Antenuptial fornication with Thomas Moar, being called she compeared and upon examination acknowledged the same. Being further interrogate as to the sense of her sin and willingness to submit to the discipline of the Church the session appointed her to be publickly rebuked on the fourth sabbath of October for her said sinful and scandalous conduct & publickly admonished on the first sabbath of November. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay bove the hill Oct 24th 1819

The constitutional associate session met and was constituted with prayer by the Revd James Cairncross Moderator, there bring present William Bias, Peter Spence, James Bias, George Flett, Caesar Johnston, Oliver Johnston, John Moar members of session.

The Moderator having stated to the session that an application had been made to him by John Johnston in Couperhouse for admission to communion with the church in sealing ordinances & that he had examined the said John Johnston as to his knowledge of the principles of the Christian religion & his acquaintance with the secession testimony & was satisfied with the same, and several members of session having attested his moral character after some conversation on the subject the session unanimously agreed to admit the said John Johnston to full communion with the church and to the enjoyment of all Christian privileges in this congregation. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay bove the hill Novr 10th 1819

The Constitutional associate session met and was constituted with prayer by Revd James Cairncross Moderator, there being present William Bias, Peter Spence, James Bias, Caesar Johnston, John Moar members of the session.

The session proceeded to further consideration of the case of Isobela Stickler who had been publickly rebucked and admonished for the sin of

(missing pages)

Of session – The session entered into a conversation on the case of Marion Mowat concerning whom a malafama had arisen & was very prevalent in the corner reporting her to be guilty of various instances of irregular and scandalous conduct particularly in keeping a very irregular and disorderly house numbers of young men resorting thither for cards playing once having been found in bed with Henry Brown her servant, he having been found at another time in her bed – Strugling with him on the Lord's day and at another time more lately - having been found in bed with her two men servants – defrauding her creditors & her orphan step daughter- after some conversation on the case, the session ordered her to be cited to appear at the next meeting of session. The session next proceeded to the case of Margaret Taylor charged with imprudent and offensive conduct in going to reside with William Spence, now her husband immediately after entering into a contract of marriage with him and before the same was Solemnised, after some conversation on the case they ordered her to be cited to appear at next meeting of session.

It was reported to the Session that Christian Smith had employed Jannet Spence to bear her child along with her husband to baptism, whereby the latter had been involved in sinful and offensive conduct in countenancing the ministration of a minister in the established church and witnessing private baptism. The session appointed George Hourston to deal with the said Christian Smith and desired the moderator to deal with Jannet Spence respecting their conduct and report at next meeting.

It being intimate to the session that Marget Anderson was reported to have witnessed the private baptism of her grand child & also dancing in a promiscuous company in Stromness, George Flett was appointed to deal with her thereon & report at next meeting of session.

It being also reported that Marget Mowat very frequently & unnecessarly absented herself from publick ordinances, George Moar was appointed to deal with her thereon and report at next meeting of session.

It being complained of John Spence that he frequently used minced oaths in his conversation, John Moar was appointed to deal with him and warn him against the same & report at next meeting of session. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay bove the hill August 11th 1820

The Constitutional Associate Session met & was constituted with prayer by the Revd James Cairncross moderator; there being present Peter Spence, Caesar Johnston, James Bias, William Bias, Magnus Flett, George Moar, George Flett, Hugh Millar, John Moar members of session.

The session proceeded to the case of Marion Mowat as in a former minute. being called she compeared & was interrogate on the several charges reported against her – on being removed the session judged not her answers satisfactory, but not having sufficient proof of the charges, they did not find themselves warranted to proceed to sensure, at the same time they judge it necessary to inhibit her from coming forward to the Lord's table on the insuing sacramental occasion. being again called in the same was intimated to her.

The session then proceeded to the case of Binnea Miller who was charged by Jean Corrigall of having falsely accused her of breaking the leg of a pig belonging to the said Binnea Miller. As they had come forward to the session they were called in when Jean Corrigall stated her complaint & Binnea Miller being interrogated as to the charge acknowledged that she had said to Jean Corrigall that she had broken her pig's leg, that she had not sufficient evidence that she had done so - & professed her sorrow for having charged her with it. The session having exhorted them to study peace and mutual edification dismissed them.

The session next proceeded to the case of Margret Taylor as in a former minute, being called & not compearing, the session ordered her to be cited against next meeting.

William Bias on behalf of George Hourston who was necessarly detained from attending the meeting reported that the said George Hourston had according to Appointment of session dealt with Christian Smith respecting her conduct in employing Jannet Spence to bear her child to baptism as in a former minute that she had acknowledged the impropriety of her conduct professed her sorrow for it and her resolution through grace not to repeat the offence.

The moderator reported that according to the desert of the session he had dealt with Jannet Spence respecting her said conduct as in a former minute that she had acknowledged the same professed sorrow for it and resolution through grace to avoid it for the future.

George Flett reported that according to appointment of session he had dealt with Margaret Anderson respecting her conduct as in a former minute that she had stated that she was in her sons house when the minnister arrived to baptize the child. Whereupon she withdrew and did not return till after the child was baptized. That she gave him no direct answer respecting the other charge – whereupon the session appointed Hugh Millar to deal further with her and report at the next meeting of session. George Moar reported that according to appointment of session he had dealt with Marget Mowat respecting her conduct as in a former minute & that she had promised through grace to study amendment.

John Moar reported that according to appointment of session he had dealt with John Spence complained of for frequently using minced oaths in conversation & that he could not condescend on any particular time in which he had done so yet would not deny the charge & promised through grace to guard against it for the future.

It having been intimated to the session that Jannet Spence had not come forward to take her seat at the Lord's table on the last sacrament alocation they appointed Caesar Johnston to converse with her as to her reasons for absenting herself & to report at next session meeting.

It having been further intimate that several members of the congregation were chargable with holding occasional communion with other religious bodies & and in particular that Catharine Taylor & Grizel Moar were chargable therewith. The session appointed Peter Spence & John Moar to deal with the former & Hugh Millar with the latter - to report at next meeting of session. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay bove the hill August 16th 1820

The Constitutional Association Session met and was constituted with prayer by the Revd James Cairncross Moderator, there being present Hugh Millar, Peter Spence, Oliver Johnston, George Hourston, James Bias, Caesar Johnston, William Bias, George Flett, John Moar members of session.

The session proceeded to the case of Marget Taylor as in former minutes. Being again called and not compearing, the session ordered her to be cited against next meeting with certification that in case of not appearing they would proceed to censure on grounds of contumacy.

Hugh Millar reported that according to appointment of session as in a former minute, he had dealt with Margaret Anderson respecting her conduct in being present at dancing in Stromness, that she stated , that she and her two sons with some others, were in a publick house in Stromness & that dancing was commenced in the room in which they (were) but that she did not join in it; that after dancing a reel it having been signified to those engaged therein it was disagreeable to some of the company they desisted from it.

Hugh Millar further reported that according to appointment of session as in a former minute, he had dealt with Grizel Moar respecting her conduct in attending sermon in the antiburger meeting house in Stromness, that she acknowledged the impropriety of the same proffessed her sorrow for it and resolution through grace not to repeat the offence.

Peter Spence & John Moar reported that according to appointment of session as in a former minute they had dealt with Catharine Taylor charged with the same offence – that she acknowledged that she had attended sermon for two Sabbaths in Stromness, but that she did not seem to them sensible of the impropriety of her conduct in so doing nor would express herself resolved through grace not to repeat it.

The session however considering the peculiar disposition of the party did not proceed to cite her to appear before them, but appointed George Hourston to deal further with her and to report at next meeting.

Caesar Johnston reported that according to the appointment of session, as in a former minute he had conversed with Jannet Spence respecting her conduct in absenting herself from the sacrament of the Lord's Supper when last dispenced in this congregation, who stated that having gone to the Isle of Shapinsaw, some time before, she was by tempestuous weather prevented beyond her intention, from returning in time.

Hugh Millar further reported that according to appointment of session, as in a former minute he had dealt with Grizel Moar respecting her conduct in attending sermon in the antiburger meeting house in Stromness, that she had acknowledged the impropriety of the same, professed her sorrow for it & resolution through grace not to repeat the offence.

It having been intimated to the session that Mary Moar had not come forward to take her seat at the Lord's Table at the last sacramental occasion in this congregation, the session appointed William Bias to converse with her respecting the reasons of her conduct & to report at the next meeting.

The session then proceeded to the consideration of the case of others chargable with holding occasional communion with other religious bodies. Hugh Millar was appointed to deal with Thomas Hourston charged with attending the sermons of an independent preacher of having spoken much of to their commendation & to report at next meeting. George Hourston was appointed to deal with Ann Moar charged with holding occasional communion with the antiburger body and to report to the session as soon as he conveniently could. – Hugh Millar and Oliver Johnston were appointed to deal with Margaret Hourston & Janet Moar charged with the same offence & also to report as soon as convenient.

William Bias & Caesar Johnston were appointed to deal with Catharine Mowat charged with the same offence and report at the next meeting.

The moderator reported that the following persons namely Ann Merriman, Jannet Flett, Catharine Johnston, Margaret Johnston, Marrion Stengearth and Marrion Adamson had applied to him for admission to communion with the church in dealing ordinances in the congregation – that after conversing with them, he was satisfied with their knowledge of the principles of the christian religion & their motives for coming forward to the Lord's table. Their moral character being severely atested by members of session – the session unanimously agreed to admit them to communion, and appointed them to give in their accession to the Judicial Testimony before the session on Thursday evening next week – Which day the session appointed to be observed as a day of fasting and humiliation in this congregation with a view to preparatory for the dispensation of the Lord's Supper among us on the following Sabbath as formerly appointed. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay bove the hill August 20th 1820

The constitutional associate session met & was constituted with prayer by the Revd James Cairncross Moderator, - there being present George Flett, Hugh Millar, George Moar, Magnus Flett, Oliver Johnston, George Hourston, James Bias, William Bias, Peter Spence, Ceasar Johnston, John Moar members of session.

The session proceeded to the case of Marget Taylor charged as in former minutes with imprudent & offensive conduct particularly in going to reside with William Spence, now her husband immediately on entering in to a contract of marriage with him and before the same was solemnised. Being called she compeared & interrogate as to her reasons for not answering former citations, she stated that the peculiar circumstances in which she was placed put it out of her power to attend - being further dealt with respecting her foresaid imprudent & offensive conduct she acknowledged the impropriety thereof & professed her sorrow for the same, - being removed the session appointed her to be admonished before them for her said conduct & being called in she was admonished accordingly.

George Hourston reported that according to appointment of session, as in former minutes he had dealt with Catherine Taylor respecting her conduct in attending sermon in the Antiburger meeting house in Stromness, that she had acknowledged the impropriety thereof professed her sorrow for it and resolution through grace to abstain from it in the future.

William Bias & Caesar Johnston reported that according to appointment of session they had dealt with Catharine Mowat charged with a similar offence as in a former minute, that she had acknowledged the impropriety of conduct, professed her sorrow for it & resolution through grace to guard against it for the future.

William Bias further reported that according to appointment of session he had conversed with Mary Moar respecting her conduct in not coming forward to the Lord 's Table on last sacramental occasion in this congregation, as in a former minute – that she stated that the sole reason for her conduct was some private difference between her & the Minister, that upon after reflection she was sensible , said differances did not warrant her conduct, for which she professed her sorrow, and her resolution through grace to guard against it for the future.

It having been intimate to the session that David Harvey having a child between & weeks old had without applying to have the said child baptised gone off on the 17th day of July to the Herring fishing at Wick, where he had the prospect of remaining for six weeks or more as his conduct in so doing had the appearance of an unnecessary neglect of the ordinance of baptism, the session after some conversation on the subject appointed William Bias & Caesar Johnston to converse with David Harvey on his return, respecting the reason of his conduct and to report to the first meeting of the session thereafter.

The Moderator reported that William Taylor had applied to him for admission to communion with the church in sealing ordinances in this congregation – that after conversing with him, he was satisfied with his knowledge of the principles of the christian religion & his professed motives in comming forward to the Lord's Table. After some conversation respecting his moral character among the members of session, his admission was agreed to & he appointed to give in his accession to the Judicial Testimony before the session on Thursday evening. The session further appointed John Johnston formerly admitted to communion to give in his accession to said testimony at the same time. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay bove the hill August 24th 1820

The constitutional Associate session met & was constituted with prayer by the Revd James Cairncross Moderator, there being present William Bias, James Bias, Ceasar Johnston, George Hourston, Magnus Flett, Olive Johnston, George Moar, Peter Spence, Hugh Millar, George Flett, John Moar members of session.

After a distribution of Tokens of admission to the Lord's Table to the members of the congregation, the following persons viz, John Johnston, William Taylor, Ann Merriman, Jannet Flett, Cathrine Johnston, Margaret Johnston, Marion Stengerth & Marion Adamson, gave in their publick accession to the Judicial testimony before the session, as appoin in former minutes & were served with tokens of admission to the Lord's Table.

Hugh Millar reporting to the session that according to appointment as in a former minute, he had conversed with Thomas Hourston anent his conduct in attending the sermons of an independent preacher & as in said minute, & that

the said Thomas Hourston seemed insensible of the impropriety & inconsistency of his conduct therein & finding he could not bring him to acknowledge himself to acknowledge himself convinced thereof he had desired him to attend the session this evening.- After some conversation on the case, the session agreed to call him, he appeared accordingly – but after endeavouring to no effect to convince him of the impropriety & inconsistency of his conduct, the session deferred further conversation of his case till their next meeting which they appointed to be held on Saturday evening immediately after sermon & in the meantime desired him to wait on George Flett & Hugh Millar for conversation on the subject. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay bove the hill August 26th 1820

The constitutional Associate session met & was constituted with prayer by the Revd James Cairncross moderator – there being present William Bias, James Bias, Ceasar Johnston, George Hourston, Oliver Johnston, Magnus Flett, George Moar, Hugh Miller, George Flett, Peter Spence, John Moar members of session.

After a Distribution of Tokens of admission to the Lord's table to the remaining members of the congregation, the session proceeded to the case of Thomas Hourston as in former minutes, being interogate further respecting his conduct, he acknowledged the impropriety & inconsistency thereof, professed his sorrow for it & resolution through grace to abstain from it for the future.

George Hourston reported that according to appointment of session he had conversed with Ann Moar anent her conduct occasionaly attending sermon in the Antiburger communion in Stromness – that she acknowledged that she had sometime done so but that did not explicitly declare her resolution through grace to abstain from it for the future – The session not being satisfied with this report & Hugh Millar and Oliver Johnston reporting that they had not had an opportunity of dealing with Jannet Moar & Margaret Hourston charged with similar conduct, as in former minutes the Session appointed William Bias and Hugh Millar to converse with the said three persons Ann Moar Jannet Moar & Margaret Johnston tomorrow morning & instructed the said William Bias and Hugh Millar that, providing the said persons should be brought to declair their resolution through grace to abstain from such conduct, they should serve them, or any one or more of them, that should profess such a resolution, with Tokens of admission to the Lord's Table. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay bove the hill Sept 10th 1820

The constitutional Associate session met & was constituted with prayer by the Revd James Cairncross Moderator, there being present James Bias, William Bias, Caesar Johnston, George Hourston, Magnus Flett, Oliver Johnston, George Moar, Hugh Millar, Peter Spence & John Moar members of session.

William Bias & Caesar Johnston reported to the session that according to appointment they had conversed with David Harvey respecting his reasons for so long neglecting the baptism of his child as in a former minute – that he had stated to them that for the first three Sabbaths he had no shoes & that during the last week before he went away he had some scruples on his mind which he could not get over – that now however he was willing to bring forward his child to baptism provided the way was clear for him to do so. After some conversation on the subject, the session appointed William Bias to deal further with him & endeavour to bring him to acknowledge the impropriety of his conduct & provided he succeeded therein to report at next meeting, but if not to cite the said David Harvey to attend the session on the 17th current. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay bove the hill September 17th 1820

The constitutional Associate session met & was constituted with prayer by the Revd James Cairncross moderator, there being present William Bias, James Bias, Caesar Johnston, Oliver Johnston, Magnus Flett, George Moar, George Hourston, Hugh Millar, George Flett, Peter Spence, & John Moar members of Session.

William Bias reported that according to appointment of session he had further dealt with David Harvey & endeavoured to bring him to acknowledge the impropriety of his conduct, as in former minutes, but that he refused to

acknowledge any impropriety or offence in it & declared that he would never make any such acknowledgement to either session or Presbytery, whereupon he had cited him to attend this meeting. David Harvey being then appeared & the session proceeded to deal with him for his conviction – after having again stated his reasons for his conduct, the same as in former minutes, he was asked Whither he was convinced of & ready to acknowledge the impropriety & unwarantableness of his conduct, - to which he replied that he was ready to acknowledge that his conduct was sinful considered in itself, but owing to circumstances, he did not consider it sin in him. Being further interogated respecting these circumstances, on which he vindicated his conduct, he replied that they were the scruples he had on his mind at the time, - he was then asked Whither he had now gotten over his scruples as far as to see it his duty to present his child for baptism, - to which he replied that he had,- being asked again Whither the grounds of his scruples were removed, - he answered that they were not removed but remained the same as ever, - the session then urged him with the argument that seeing the grounds of his scruples still remained & did not now warrant him to keep back his child they could not warrant him to keep it back formerly. - But after dealing with him for a considerable time, he still persisted in maintaining the warrantableness of his conduct, at length he was desired to show to the session how his keeping back his child formerly could be reconciled with his now offering to bring it forward, the resons for his former conduct remaining the same – This he offered to do in writting provided time were allowed him - whereupon the session desired him to give in the same under his hand at next meeting which they appointed to be held on the 24th current. – Concluded with prayer.

Birsay bove the hill Sept 24th 1820

The constitutional Associate session met & was constituted with prayer by the Revd James Cairncross Moderator, there being present George Hourston, Magnus Flett, George Moar, Oliver Johnston, George Flett, Hugh Millar, Peter Spence, Caesar Johnston, James Bias, William Bias, John Moar, members of session.

The session proceeded to the further consideration of the case of David Harvey as in former minutes. Being called he appeared, being asked Whither he was prepared to give in defence of the consistency of his conduct which he had offered at last meeting he replied that he was, but for peace sake he was willing to acknowledge that his conduct was sinful considered in itself but that owing to circumstances he did not consider it as sin in him. The session informed him that they could not consider such an acknowledgement as at all satisfactory & desired him to give in his defence, Whereupon declaring that their demanding it was the rashest step ever the session took, he gave in a paper to the clerk which on being read was found to charge the Moderator with some steps of irregular conduct, but as it did not state what these steps were the session desired him to specify the same, Whereupon he specified three which he reckoned irregular & which the clerk wrote on the back of the paper given in by him, the correctness of which on being read he acknowledged, & as he further signified that he had others to state but did not at the time remember who the persons were who informed him of them. The session appointed him to give in to the session a statement of the whole at next meeting which they appointed to be held on the 10th of October. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay bove the hill Octr 10th 1820

The constitutional Associate session met & was constituted with prayer by the Revd James Cairncross Moderator, there being present William Bias, James Bias, Caesar Johnston, Oliver Johnston, Magnus Flett, George Moar, George Flett, Hugh Millar, Peter Spence, & John Moar Members of session.

The Session proceeded to the further consideration of the case of David Harvey as in former minutes. Being called he compeared, & on being asked whither he was prepared to give in a statement of the steps of irregular conduct wherewith he had charged the Moderator, in his former paper & as appointed at last meeting, he replied that he was not. On being asked the reason he stated that he understood the session intended to send the case to Presbytery & had he known that before he gave in his former paper he would not have given it in, as he did not wish it to go to the Presbytery through the session, hereon he was asked whither he ment that he did not wish the case to go to the Presbytery at all, he replied that this was not his meaning, but he did not consider this session to be a regular court through which it might be transmitted - on being asked whither by this last answer he meant to decline the authority of the session, he answered that in this case he did. On being removed, the session took into their consideration how they were to dispose of the case & as the resons he assigned for his conduct in his former paper were wholy charges against the Moderator, of whose conduct they found themselves as a court, not competent to judge they agreed to refer the case simplicitor to the constitutional Associate Presbytery, & David Harvey being called in was informed of the same. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay bove the hill Jan 2nd 1821

The constitutional associate session met & was constituted with prayer by the Revd James Cairncross Moderator. There being present George Hourston, Peter Spence, Oliver Johnston, Magnus Flett, Ceasar Johnston Members of session.

It having been intimated to the session that John Harvey had been guilty of Drunkenness and swearing in the house of Thomas Huntow in Marwick on the night of 14th Dec last, the session after some conversation on the case aggreed to cite him to appear at next ordinary meeting.

It having been also intimate that Elspet Johnston had been vilifying the Session and openly charging them with injustice and intermedling with matters in which they had no concern particularly in the Process of David Harvey as in former minutes The Session after some conversation on the case appointed George Hourston & Ceasar Johnston to converse with her on the subject and report at next meeting which they appointed to be held on Wednesday the 17th of this month. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay Above the hill Jan 17th 1821

The Constitutional Associate Session met and was constituted with prayer by the Revd James Cairncross Moderator there being present William Bias, James Bias, Ceasar Johnston, Oliver Johnston, George Moar, Magnus Flett, George Flett, Hugh Millar, Peter Spence, John Moar Members of session.

The session proceeded to the case of John Harvey as in a former minute. Being called he compeared and interogated acknowledged that he was affected with drink and that he might have used improper language on the occation and professed his sorrow for the same. Being removed the session agreed that he should be admonished before them for his said conduct and being called he was admonished accordingly.

Ceasar Johnston reported that he and George Hourston had according to appointment of Session conversed with Elspet Johnston respecting her conduct as in a former minute. That she acknowledged the same excused her conduct as proceeding from ignorance and wrong information Professed her sorrow for it and resolution through Grace to guard against it for the future. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay Above the hill Nov 21st 1821

The Constitutional Associate Session met & was constituted with prayer by the Revd James Cairncross Moderator. There being present Peter Spence, James Bias, Ceasar Johnston, John Moar, Oliver Johnston, Magnus Flett Members of session.

They proceeded to the case of William Spence charged with drinking for a whole night and most part of the following day being called he compeared, being interrogated he admitted the same and professed his sorrow for his conduct. And being removed the session proceeded to deliberate what censure they should inflict on him for said conduct. On a motion being made to that effect their minute of 2 of December 1819 was read whence it appeared that the said Wm Spence had been rebuked before the session for a similar offence and certified that in case of a relapse the session would proceed to suspend him from the enjoyment of his christian priviledges. But as that time

his conduct in this respect so far as the Session knows has been blameless the Session agreed that he should be publickly rebuked for his said conduct on the first Sabbath of December. Being called in the same was intimated to him and his attendance on that day required.

The Session then proceeded to the case of John Spence charged with drinking rangling and swearing in the house of Ingsay on the night of the 7th current and with similar conduct at Gelderhouse on the night following being called he compeared and interogated he acknowledged he was the worse of drink in both cases. And admitted his rangling in the former, but was not sensible of swearing. At the same time did not deny that he was guilty of it, And professed his sorrow for his conduct and resolution through Grace to guard against it for the future. Being removed the session agreed that he should be rebuked for them. And being called back he was rebuked accordingly. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay 4th August 1822

The Con. Ass. Sess. Met and was constituted with prayer by the Revd Jas Cairncross Moderator there being present Peter Spence, George Hourston, Magnus Flett, George Moar, George Flett, Ceasar Johnston and John Moar, members of session. The session proceeded to consider when they might have the sacrament of the Lord's Supper dispensed in this congregation. After some consultation they agreed that it be dispensed here on the Fourth Sabbath of August being this day three weeks. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay Above the hill Octr 1 1822

The Con. Ass. Sess. Met and was constituted with prayer by the Revd Jas. Cairncross Moderator. There being present Caesar Johnston, George Flett, John Moar members of session.

The moderator intimated to the Sess. that an application had been made by Willm. Johnston in Bathgate for admission with the church in sealing ordinance. Reported that he having conversed with him respecting his

knowledge of the Principles of the Christian religion and of the decession cause was satisfied therewith. The Sess. took the case into their consideration and his moral character and deportment being attested by two members of sess. present. The sess. agreed to admit him to communion with the Church in sealing ordinances in this congregation. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay August 9th 1823

The Con. Ass. Sess. met and was constituted with prayer by the Revd. James Cairncross Moderator, There being present George Hourston, Peter Spence, John Moar, Caesar Johnston, George Moar Members of session.

The session proceeded to the case of Christian Flett as in a former minute after some consideration of the same they agreed to cite her to their next meeting with certification that in case of none attendance they would proceed to censure -

The Session next proceeded to the case of Wm Spence charged with tipling and drinking & particularly at Geseter the whole of the night of the 28 of Feb last & most part of the following day as in former minutes. Being called he compeared & interrogate as to his conduct acknowledged the same in part namely his remaining in Geseter all that night. But denied that he was worse of drink but being fatigued for want of rest for some time before fell asleep being removed the session further considered the case, and owing to the circumstances thereof did not consider themselves warranted to proceed to censure but at the same time agreed that William should be laid under a judicial inquisition not to come forward to use his privileges at the ensuing communion ocasion. Being called in the same was intimated unto him and he withdrew. Concluded with prayer.

Birsay August 20th 1823

The Const. Ass. Sess. met and was constituted with prayer by the Revd. James Cairncross Moderator, there being present William Bias, Jas. Bias, Caesar

Johnston, George Flett, George Moar, George Hourston, Peter Spence, John Moar, Members of session.

The sess. proceeded to the case of Marget Yorston charged with stigmatising John Harvey as a liar. Being called she compeared and interrogate she acknowledged that she did so. On further conversation with her that John Harvey had to her face laid some what to her charge and she in reply used the said language but that all she intended thereby was that wherewith he charged her was not true. On being removed the sess. agreed to caution her to be more guarded as to her language for the future.

The sess. then proceeded to the case of John Harvey charged with using unbecoming language in a dispute with James Gorie & also profane exclamations but being called he did not compear. The session agreed to refer the consideration of the case till next ordinary meeting.

The sess. next proceeded to the case of Christian Flett charged as in former minutes with bearing home salt water in time of publick worship on the sabbath day. Having not compeared on two former citations the sess. appointed her to be cited for the third time to this meeting with certification that in case of none appearance the sess. would proceed to censure both on the ground of offence and contumacy. But being called she did not compear. After some deliberation it was moved that she should be suspended from sealing ordinances whereupon the question being put to the vote suspend or not which carried immediately suspend whereby the session did as they hereby do suspend the said Christian Flett from communion with the church in sealing ordinances aye & untill she give satisfactory evidence of her repentance for her scandalous and contumacious conduct.

The Moderator reported to the Session that the following persons had applied to him for admission with the Church in sealing ordinances viz. Jean Sinclair in Hagan, Margret Flett in Houseby, Margret Harvey in Wattle, Catharine Stickler & Margret Moar in Marwick Christian Flett in Inhallow. That he had conversed with and were satisfied with their knowledge There moral character being attested by several members of sess. it was agreed to admit as they hereby do admit the said persons to communion with the church in sealing ordinances. The sess. appointed Thursday next week being the 20 current to be observed as a day of Fasting and humiliation in this congregation preparatory to the dispensation of the sacrament of the Lord's supper on the following Sabath.

Birsay bove the hill August 14th 1826

The Con. Ass. Sess. met and was constituted with prayer by the Revd. Jas. Cairncross moderator.

There being present with him Jas. Bias, Peter Spence, George Flett, George Moar, George Hourston.

The Sess. proceeded to the case of Catharine Huntow who had been laid under sentence of Lesser excommunication by the Const. Ass. Pby. in May 1818 For the scandalous sin of adultery with James Sabiston as in former minutes. An extract of a minute of Presby. was laid before the session by the moderator of which the following is a copy.

Edinburgh May 10 1826

Mr Cairncross Birsay having made a representation from the session of Birsay concerning the case of Catherine Hunter a member of that congregation who had fallen into the sin and scandal of adultery & who was laid under the sentence of the lesser excommunication by the Pby. In 1818. The Pby. appointed the session of Birsay to call her before them and to proceed in the ordinary way of purging the scandal with a view to Absolution and to report to the Pby.

Alexr. Duncan Clk pro tempore

The sess. then called her before them & after examination appointed her to appear in order to be publickly rebuked before the congregation on Sabbath the 27th current.

Birsay above the hill Octr the 11 1826

The Const. Ass. Session met & was constituted with prayer by the Revd. James Cairncross Moderator.

There being present George Flett, Ceasar Johnston, Peter Spence, George Moar, Magnus Flett, John Moar members of session.

The sess. proceeded to the case of Cathrine Huntow as in former minutes. After further examination as to her exercise the sess. appointed her to be Publickly admonished on Sabbath the 22 current.

Manse of Birsay 21th November 1842

By Authority from the Presbytery the Session of the Associate Congregation of Original Seceders Birsay met and was constituted with Prayer by the Revd. Ebenezer Ritchie moderator pro tempore.

Sederant with him James Bias, Hugh Miller, Oliver Johnston, John Moar, John Johnston, Ceasar Johnston, Robert Johnston, George Hunter.

The session took under consideration the case of John Johnston and his wife Ann Taylor, who was chargeable with the sin of Antenuptial fornication but neither of them being at the time in communion with the church. It was agreed that they should make 3 appearances before the congregation on two separate Sabbaths. To be rebuked in the forenoon and admonished in the afternoon of the one Sabbath And to be absolved from the scandal on the other. Being called before the session and this form of discipline being made known to them they both declared their readiness to submit to it and returned satisfactory answers to most of the questions put to them by the Moderator. Closed with prayer

Manse of Birsay 5th Jany 1843

The session again met and was constituted with prayer by the Revd. Ebenezer Ritchie Minister of Kirkwall Moderator pro tempore. Sederant with him John Moar, John Johnston, Ceasar Johnston, Robert Johnston and George Hunter.

John Johnston and Ann Taylor who were apointed as in the preceeding Minute to undergo the discipline of the Church having been publickly rebucked and admonished on the 1st Sabbath of Jany appeared again before the session at their present meeting. Being examined as to their exercise and regard to the discipline of the Church and desire to be absolved and to be received into Communion they gave satisfactory answers. The session therefore unanimously agreed that they should be publickly absolved from the scandal on the 2nd Sabbath of Jany if the Lord wills. Closed with prayer.

Mance of Birsay 20th July 1843

The Associate Session of United Original Seceders met and was constituted by the Revd. Robert Auld Moderator that day ordained.

Sederant with him Peter Spence, James Bias, Hugh Miller, John Moar, John Johnston, Ceasar Johnston, Robert Johnston, George Hunter . Elders.

The session then made choice of Hugh Miller as there representative to the Presby. Then sitting in the Mance, And John Moar Commissioner to the instruments and crave extract. Closed with prayer.

Mance of Birsay 27 of July 1843

The session met and was constituted by the Revd. Robert Auld Moderator. Sederent with James Bias, Hugh Miller, John Moar, Oliver Johnston, Ceasar Johnston, Robert Johnston, George Hunter members of session.

The minute of last meeting were then read and agreed to. No bussiness being before the session appointed next meeting at the Mance on Thursday 24th August. Closed with prayer.

Mance of Birsay 24 Aug 1843

The session met and was constituted with prayer by Revd. Robert Auld Moderator. Sederant with him James Bias, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, Robert Johnston, George Hunter members of session. The moderator read a letter from the Revd Mr Burn Thurso stating that the sacrament was to be dispensed there on the first Sabbath of September and being disapointed of his expected assistance, requiring his aid on that occasion. to this the session unanimously agreed. It was also stated by the Moderator that the Revd Mr Duncan was expected at Kirkwall and to remain there some time and after some conversation on the subject the session thought it would be desirable to embrace the opertunity of his being in Orkney to have the sacrament of the Lord's Supper dispenced leaving the time to be fixed at a futer meeting. Closed with prayer.

Mance of Birsay 17 Sept 1843

The session met and was constituted with prayer by the Rev. Robert Auld Moderator. Sederent with him Peter Spence, James Bias, Hugh Miller, John Moar, Oliver Johnston, Caesar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston members of session. It was stated by the Moderator that as the Revd. Mr Duncan was expected at Kirkwall he thought it a favourable opertunity to have the Lord's Supper dispensed in the congregation as it was a long time since they had an opportunity of joining in that solemn ordinance. This was cordially responded to by all the members and after a short conversation they unanimously agreed that the third Sabbath of Octr be set apart for that purpose and intimation to be made to the congregation accordingly. Closed with prayer.

Mance of Birsay Oct 4 1843

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Revd. Robert Auld Moderator. Sederant with him James Bias, Hugh Miller, John Moar, Oliver Johnston, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, George Hunter, elders. There being no business before the session. Closed with prayer.

Original Secession Mance 16 Novr 1843

The session met and was constituted with prayer by the Revd. Robert Auld Moderator. Sederant with him James Bias, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston, and George Hunter, Elders. Compeared before them Mary Bias & Marget Sinclair. A charge had been brought by the latter against the former which she failed to substantiate & while the session declared that nothing to the prejudice of Mary Bias had appeared to impair her standing in the church Yet with respect to Marget Sinclair from some aggravating circumstances in her conduct of this matter. They resolve that she be under censure for a time. Closed with prayer.

Original Secession Mance Birsay 14 Decr 1843

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Revd. Robert Auld Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, Johnston, Robert Johnston Elders.

William Spence on a citation appeared before them. A report at last meeting was given in to the session that on a late occasion he had been overtaken with liquor aggravated by his going on the following day to communion at Kirkwall. Having warned him against the danger of going into mixed companies and exhorting him to form resolutions in the strength of Divine Grace against an evil which he had been once & again overtaken. they restored him to the office of Presenter from which he had for a time been suspended and dismissed him with an admonition. Closed with prayer.

Original Secession Mance Birsay 8th March 1844

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Revd. Robert Auld, Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, James Bias, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston & George Hunter – Elders.

The Moderator reported that James Stanger had applied to him for baptism for his child And having put some questions to him as to his religious knowledge and his adherence to our principles, declared himself satisfied As to the propriety of his admission to membership in the congregation. To this the Session unanimously agreed stating at the same time that he give in his adherence to the Testimony the first opportunity.

John Johnston reported that Isobella Folster who had been for some time suspended from communion for the sin of Antenuptial fornication had applied to him requesting that he would lay her case before the Session expressing at the same time her desire and willingness to undergo the censure of the church in order to make satisfaction for the scandal she had brought on her profession. After some conversation it was agreed that she be summoned to attend at the next ordinary meeting. Closed with prayer.

Original Secession Mance 12th April 1844

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Revd. Robert Auld Moderator. Sederant with him John Moar, Hugh Miller, James Bias, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston & Robert Johnston & George Hunter Elders.

Isobella Folster referred to in last Minute compeared before them And being Satisfied with her confession and exercise as far as they could judge of it the Session agreed that she be admitted to the discipline of the Church, And that she be publickly rebuked before the congregation at the close of Divine worship on Sabbath the 21 of April current. The session after some conversation thought that the most convenient time for the dispensation of the Lord's Supper would be about the beginning of July and agreed that the first Sabbath of July be fixed for that purpose. Closed with prayer.

Original Secession Mance Birsay 25th May 1844

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Revd. Robert Auld Moderator. Sederant with him John Moar, Oliver Johnston, George Hunter, James Bias, John Johnston, Robert Johnston Elders.

Isobella Folster referred to in the former minute again compeared having been rebuked on the day appointed and the Session being satisfied with her conduct and exercise as far as that was laid before them Agreed that she be admonished on the afternoon of Sabbath the 28th of May and absolved on the sabbath following. Closed with prayer.

Original Secession Mance Birsay 27 June 1844

The session met and was constituted with prayer by the Revd. Robert Auld Moderator. Sederant with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston, Hugh Miller, Oliver Johnston, George Hunter Elders.

The Moderator gave in a list of names of persons who had made application for admission to the communion stating that he was satisfied with there knowledge and that they were prepared to give in their adherence to the Testimony, these to the number of Ten were approved by the session and members of Session were appointed to intimate this to the respective parties. The session appointed Thursday the 4 of July to be observed by the Congregation as a day of Humiliation preparatory to the Communion. Closed with Prayer by the moderator.

Mance Bove the hill Birsay 5 Decr 1844

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Hugh Miller, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Oliver Johnston, George Hunter, James Bias, Robert Johnston elders.

Isobela Spence having been invited to appear at the session on account of a Fama that had gone abroad concerning her conduct previous to her marriage did not come forward. John Johnston was appointed to speak to her again on the subject and invite her to the next meeting. Closed with prayer.

Mance Bove the hill 9 Jany 1845

The Session was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, John Johnston, Robert Johnston, Ceasar Johnston, George Hunter, elders.

Isobela Spence menchened in last minute compeared before them and after stating her case and giving her some necessary cautions she was dismissed on the understanding that she was at liberty to exercise her privileges. It was also unanimously agreed that Thursday 23rd inst. be held in the congregation as a day of Humiliation and Thanksgiving for the late abundant harvest. Closed with Prayer by the Moderator.

Mance Bove the hill Birsay 6 March 1845

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him James Bias, Hugh Miller, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Oliver Johnston, Robert Johnston & George Hunter Elders.

Understanding that Mr McLean was expected at Kirkwall daily, It was agreed to by the Session that with his assistance it would be advisable to have a dispensation of the communion and it was proposed that it should take place on the first Sabbath of April, previous Thursday to be kept as a humiliation day. Close with prayer.

Mance above the hill Birsay 27th March 1845

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him James Bias, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston & George Hunter Elders.

The moderator gave in a list of persons who had made application to him for admission to communion stating that he was satisfied with their knowledge and that they were prepared to give in their adherence to the Testimony these to the number of Four were approved by the session and members of session were appointed to intimated this to the respective parties. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 6th June 1845

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Modr. Sederent with him John Moar, James Bias, John Johnston, Oliver Johnston, Ceasar Johnston, Robert Johnston, George Hunter Elders.

Marget Sinclair appeared before them and her sorrow for the charges she had brought against Mary Bias & after suitable exhortation to be on her guard against all such conduct for the future the Session agreed unanimously that she should be restored to her privileges. There being no other business of importance the Session was concluded with Prayer.

Mance above the hill 7th Aug 1845

The session met and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Hugh Miller, John Moar, James Bias, Oliver Johnston, Ceasar Johnston, George Hunter Elders. It being intimated by the Moderator that he had received from the clerk of the synod notice that the ordination of Mr McLean at Kirkwall was to take place on the 14th Inst and that the Presbytery was to meet there on that day for purpose the Session agreed to appoint Oliver Johnston or failing him George Huntow to represent them in that occasion no other business being before them the Session was closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 9 September 1845

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederant with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, James Bias, Robert Johnston & George Huntow Elders. After some conversation it was agreed that the sacrament of the Lord's supper be dispensed in the Congregation on Sabath the 9 day of November, the previous Thursday to be observed as a fast day. Closed with prayer.

Secession Mance Birsay 3 November 1845

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him James Bias, John Moar, Hugh Miller, Ceasar Johnston, Oliver Johnston, John Johnston, Geo Hunter Elders.

The Moderator gave in the names of the persons who had applied for admission to sealing ordinances stating that he was satisfied with their knowledge and that they were ready to give in their adherence to the testimony. No objections being offered it was agreed that they be admited accordingly and that the partied be informed by their respective Elders. The Session was then closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 4th March 1846

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Hugh Miller, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, George Hunter Elders. Having taken into consideration the propriety of observing a day of Humiliation in the congregation according to the appointment of Synod and learning from the fact of the Moderators having been in the Providence of God laid aside for a time from Publick work that the act for a fast to be issued by the Presbytery has hitherto been delayed, find that were there to be a longer delay it would be unseasonable for the congregation to keep the fast & therefore agree to adopt as reasons for fasting an act drawn up unitedly by the Presbyteries of Edinburgh, Perth and Aberdeen. Appoint the 19th day of March to be observed in the congregation as a day of fasting and Humiliation. The Moderator to read the said act on the preceeding Sabbath. Closed with Prayer.

Mance above the hill 10th April 1846

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, George Huntow, Robert Johnston, Elders. After some conversation it was agreed that the sacrament of our Lord's Supper be dispensed in the Congregation on the 2 sabbath of May. The Thursday previous to be kept as a fast day. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 1 May 1846

The session met and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, James Bias, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston, Elders.

The moderator reported the names of three who had been conversing with him about joining at the ensuing communion viz Elizabeth Stengerth, Grizel Huntow & Ann Isbister stating that he was satisfied with their knowledge. That they had read the testimony and approved of it and in so far as they understood it were ready to give in there adherence to it. No objections being offered it was agreed that they should be admitted and intimation given to the parties. The Presbytery being appointed to meet in Kirkwall on the Monday after the 3 Sabbath of May the session appoint Robert Johnston as Presbytery Elder on that occasion. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 11 June 1846

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederant with him James Bias, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Oliver Johnston, George Hunter, John Moar & Robert Johnston elders. The Moderator mentioned that Cicilia McLeod, wife of William Johnston Westra had several times been with him conversing about being Baptized. That ordinance having been dispensed to her in her infancy he stated his conviction that she ought to be admitted to Baptism as well as to membership in the congregation, that answers she gave as to the ordinance itself, her general knowledge of the christian doctrine & the evident impression religion has made on her mindfully warrants him to lay her case before the session & to request their concurance. It was unanimously agreed she be admitted both to baptism and membership and she was appointed to be present at the next meeting of session when arrangements for this purpose will be made. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill June 20th 1846

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Hugh Miller, James Bias, Caesar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston , George Huntow, elders. Cicilia McLeod compeared and after a few questions by the Moderator & and members all appeared satisfied that she ought to be admitted to communion with the church. And appointed her Baptism to take place at a time and place to be fixed by the Moderator upon consultation with her friends. Intimation to be publickly given. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 13th September 1846

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederant with him James Bias, Hugh Miller, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, Oliver Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston, George Huntow Elders.

The moderator stated that in compliance with the Memorial of the Presbytry the synod had appointed the Revd. Mr Paxton of Kirremuir to assist at the several sacraments in the Bounds of the Presbytry in the month of Octr next And that he expected him to be at Birsay on the 2 Sabbath of October. The session accordingly unanimously agreed that the sacrament be dispensed in the congregation that day And the previous Thursday to be held as a fast day in the congregation. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 1 October 1846

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Hugh Miller, James Bias, John Moar, George Huntow, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston. & Robert Johnston Elders. The moderator mentioned that four persons had been applying to him for admission to the comunion, That he was satisfied as to their religious knowledge and that as far as they understood our principles each having read the Testimony they approved of them and were ready when called upon to give in their accession. No particular objections being made to any of them it was agreed that they be admitted and ordered to meet with the session to give in their accession at the close of Afternoon worship on the fast day. Their names were Jean Baikie, Jannet Johnston, Mary Gaddie, & Mary Moar. Appointed George Huntow to attend as Presbytry Elder on the Monday after the communion there it being understood that if he is not present Any other elder who happens to be present to supply his place. Closed with prayer.

Mance Above the hill Nov 12th 1846

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the moderator. Sederent with him James Bias, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, Robert Johnston, John

Johnston, George Huntow Elders. It was proposed by the Moderator and unanimously agreed to that Thursday the 3 of December be observed in the congregation as a day of Humiliation and Thanksgiving for the mingled judgement and mercy manifested in the late harvest and the distress from want of food that prevails in many parts of our land. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill Dec 17th 1846

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Caesar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston & George Huntow elders. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 26 Jany 1847

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the moderator. Sederent with him James Bias, John Moar, Caesar Johnston, Oliver Johnston, John Johnston & George Huntow elders. The Moderator that George Folster had applyed to him for Baptism for his child and not being a member he wished there advice. He stated his willingness to join at the first communion And not having read the Testimony he promised to read it over by that time and thus be prepared to give in his adherence. The session agreed upon that promise that he should receive baptism for his child. The session next agreed that the sacrament of the Lord's Supper be dispensed in the congregation on the last Sabbath in Feby, the previous Thursday to be observed as a fast day. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 18th Feby 1847

The session met and was constituted with prayer by the moderator. Sederent with him James Bias, John Moar, Caesar Johnston, John Johnston, Oliver Johnston, George Huntow Elders. The Moderator mentioned names of those who had applied to him for admission at the communion stating that he was satisfied with their knowledge, that each had read the testimony and professed their willingness to in their publick adherence to it. The following to the number of four were approved by the session Magnus Flett, George Folster, Catharine Bias & William Harvey. The session had some conversation about David Huntow & his wife & disputes between James Slaiter & his wife, and as it apeared that for a length of time these disputes had been carried on in a very unseemly manner and to the great scandal of religion. They resolved that untill the matter can be investigated the parties who are in membership should be in the meantime excluded from privileges. Intimation of this to be made to the partied by two members of session. Closed with prayer.

Meeting house above the hill 1 June 1847

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him James Bias, Hugh Miller, Oliver Johnston, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, John Moar. The moderator reported that a minister from the south was expected to assist in each of the three congregations in the Bonds of Orkney and Caithness Presbytery And that he was expected to assist at Birsay on the 4 Sabbath of June which day the session agreed should be held for our communion upon conditions that he arrived in due time, And that the Thursday preceeding should be held as a day of Fasting and Humiliation preparatory to the sacrament. Closed with prayer.

Meeting house above the hill 18 June 1847

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, George Huntow and James Bias Elders. The moderator stated that no applicants for admission to the communion had applyed to him. He mentioned however one case of probable application and as no particular objections were made to him It was agreed that upon an application he be admitted. Closed with prayer.

Meeting house above the hill 9 November 1847

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Oliver Johnston, Robert

Johnston Elders. Ceasar Johnston reported that with John Johnston he had called on James Gorie concerning whom a fama had gone forth about his indulging in intoxicating liquor. He acknowledged the truth of the report and his contrition & his resolution through Divine Grace to be more guarded for the future. They also conversed with him about his Daughter Marget Gorie and his son-in-law George Johnston who had fallen under the scandal of Antenuptial fornication and they subsequently learned from him that both were desirous of submitting to the discipline of the church. It was agreed to unanimously that Caesar Johnston & John Johnston converse with them and summon them to its next meeting. Closed with prayer.

Meeting house above the hill 13 Nov 1847

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederant with him John Moar, Caesar Johnston, John Johnston, George Hunter, Robert Johnston, Elders. Compeared before them George Johnston and Marget Gorie mentioned in the former minute. After stating to them their relation to the church and the nature of Discipline and enquiring as to their feelings & exercise The session expressed there satisfaction and appointed them to be rebuked before the congregation at the close of Divine worship on Sabbath the 28 current. Closed with prayer.

Meeting house above the hill 2 Decr 1847

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederant with him John Moar, Hugh Miller, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston Elders. Compeared before them George Johnston and Marget Gorie mentioned in the former minute. Having been Publickly rebuked on the previous Sabbath and still manifesting contrition and due submission, the session agreed that they be admonished and absolved at the close of publick worship on Sabbath next the 5 instant. Closed with prayer.

Manse above the hill March 16 1848

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederant with him James Bias, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Oliver Johnston, Robert Johnston, George Hunter elders.

The Moderator stated that Alexr Johnston had applied for Baptism for his child, That he was satisfied with his knowledge, that he had been making himself acquinted with our principles & was prepared to give in his adherence to the Testimony and join in communion at the first opportunity. The Session unanimously agreed that his child should be baptized & intimation of this given to him. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill Birsay 10 July 1848

The Session met & was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Hugh Miller, James Bias, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, Oliver Johnston, Robert Johnston & George Hunter Elders. Taking into consideration the time of the season it was proposed that although some members might be absent at the fishing, yet it would be advisable to have communion dispenced in the congregation. It was therefore proposed & unanimously agreed to the (God willing) the sacrament be dispensed on the 1 Sabbath of Augst next the previous Thursday to be observed as a fast day. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill Birsay July 28 1848

The session met and was Constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Hugh Miller, James Bias, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston & George Hunter, Elders. The moderator stated that the following persons had conversed with him in view of joining at the communion viz George Johnston, Marget Gorie, and Mary Taylor. The moderator expressed himself satisfied with their knowledge and said they were ready to give their adherence to the Testimony. It was unanimously agreed to admit them & intimation to be given that they give in their adherence on the afternoon of the fast day. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill Birsay 13 Oct 1848

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar & George Hunter, Elders. It was unanimously agreed that the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the congregation on the second Sabbath of Novr, the preceeding Friday to be observed as a fast day. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill Birsay 27 Octr 1848

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him James Bas, Hugh Miller, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Oliver Johnston, Elders. The Moderator stated that the following persons had conversed with him with a view of joining at the communion with whose knowledge ho was satisfied viz George Spence, Samuel Sinclair, Catharine Moar, Martha Johnston, and Marget Taylor. No objections being argued in any case by members of Session it was agreed they be admitted and intimation given to each accordingly. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill Birsay 28 Feby 1849

The Session met and was constituted by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar & George Johnston Elders. It was agreed that the sacrament of the Lord's Supper be dispensed in the congregation on the 8th of April being the second Sabbath of that month, the previous Thursday to be kept as a day of humiliation. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill Birsay 29 March 1849

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Hugh Miller, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston, George Huntow, elders. The Moderator mentioned that a few had been conversing with him in reference to joining in the communion at the ensuing occation that he had been satisfied with their religious knowledge.

They all had read the Testimony and were ready to give in there adherence to it. There names being mentioned and no objections urged against any it was unanimously agreed they be received into the communion of the Church. There names are as follows. Thomas Linklater, Peter Moar, Marget Spence, Isobela Gorie, Helen Johnston & Jannet Johnston. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill May 16th 1849

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Hugh Miller, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, George Huntow Elders.

It being reported to the session that William Spence had again been overtaken with drunkenness it was agreed that he be summoned to the next meeting of Session. It was also reported to the session that Thomas Spence of Pitten had fallen into the same scandal. It was agreed that he also be summoned to the next meeting. It being reported that Elizabeth Stickler, Southside was chargeable with Falsehood & persisting in it, it was agreed she too be summoned to attend the next meeting of the Session. The Session had some conversation (about) Ann Johnston of Swannay who was chargeable with Antenuptial fornication her husband Alexander Moar being unbaptized & wishing also baptism and to be taken under discipline. The session find that there are difficulties in the case which prevent them from proceeding without advice in the case of the said Alexander Moar, But agree that if she is earnest to be taken under discipline herself to proceed with her case. The report to be given in at the next meeting. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 31 May 1849

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him James Bias, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robt. Johnston & George Huntow Elders. After some conversation regarding Alexander Moar and his wife Ann Johnston in course of which the report was given in as referred to at last meeting stating that the said Ann Johnston wished her case deferred untill her husbands also could be taken up. It was resolved to proceed with the case of William Spence. Wm Spence having compeared expressed great contrition for the fault in which he had been overtaken and in a very submissive spirit acknowledged the propriety of the Session's procedures towards him. The members having each said a few words after rebuke and admonition by the Moderator he was restored to his priviledges. Elizabeth Stickler next compeared and confessed she had been guilty as stated. She expressed great contrition but the case appeared to the Session so aggravated that there sentence is that she be rebuked and admonished by the Moderator and that her suspension from priviledges be continued untill after the next communion, that opertunity may thus be given of judging by her conduct of the sincerity of her repentance. Thomas Spence being called did not compear and it was agreed that he be summoned to the next meeting. After some conversation the session agreed that the sacrament of the Lord's Supper be dispenced in the congregation on the second Sabbath of July being the 8 day of that month, the previous Thursday to be observed as a fast day. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill June the 29th 1849

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Modr. Sederent with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, James Bias, John Johnston, Oliver Johnston & George Huntow, ruling Elders. The moderator stated that only one person had been conversing with him in view of the communion viz Jannet Hervey Palace He stated that he was satisfied with her knowledge, That she had read the Testimony and was prepared as far as she understood it to give her accession to it. It was agreed unanimously that she be admitted and is but one her giving in her adherence be defered to next communion. Closed with Prayer.

Mance above the hill August 1st 1849

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Hugh Miller, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston, Oliver Johnston & George Huntow Elders. Jean Folster Quoyhorie having fallen into the sin of and scandal of Antenuptial fornication having been summoned compeared before the Session. She answered all the questions proposed to her much to the satisfaction of the Session. She appeared very contrite an as far as the Session could judge her exercise appeared of a very satisfactory nature. It was agreed that she was in a fit state for the discipline of the church and that on several days she make a publick appearance before the congregation once for rebuke and once for admonition and absolution. Afterwards Ann Johnston and Alexr Moar her husband who were chargeable with the same sin and scandal having been summoned compeared before the Session. In the case of Alexr Moar who had never been baptised It was agreed that if he be found of competent knowledge he be taken under discipline with his wife And then be baptized. Some questions as to his knowledge of the leading doctrines of Christianity were put to him by the Moderator in presence of the Session And satisfactorily answered. They were then both questioned as to their state of mind in regard to the sin and scandal of which they had been guilty and as to their exercise then and since. The Session being so far satisfied with their answers to these Agreed that two appearances be made by them before the congregation, The first for rebuke the second Sabbath of Aug. The second for admonition and absolution on the third Sabath of said month at the close of afternoon worship on each day. It was agreed also that Jean Folster mentioned in the former part of the minute appear with them on both occasions. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill Aug 14th 1849

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston Elders. Alexr. Moar & Ann Johnston again compeared & being questioned as to their exercise and suitably admonished they were told that in terms of the minute of the last session they were to appear in the church on the third Sabbath then to be admonished and absolved. It was stated to them also that if the Minister be at home the Baptism of Alexr. Moar and the child take place on the Fourth Sabbath. Jean Folster refered to in last minute also appeared and being questioned as to her exercise and admonished was told that she was to appear with the others on the afternoon of the third Sab. No other matter being before the session it was closed with Prayer.

Mance above the hill 10th Sept 1849

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Hugh Miller, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, Oliver Johnston & George Hunter Elders. The Moderator mentioned the necessity of having some addition to the Session as some of the members were aged and frail. This was responded to be members who thought in addition 3 or 4 would be necessary & instructed the moderator to mention the matter to the congregation that they might look out in three respective quarters for members whom they might think qualified to propose for office. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill Decr 12th 1849

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Hugh Miller, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Oliver Johnston, Robert Johnston, George Huntow, Ruling Elders. It was unanimously agreed at the suggestion of the Moderator that a day of Humiliation and Thanksgiving be observed in the congregation. Should next Sabbath be fine and a full meeting present the day to be observed on Thursday next week. Otherwise on the Thursday following. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 4 of January 1850

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Hugh Miller, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston ruling elders. Reference was made by the Modr. to a former minute relating to as addition to the Eldership and the Matter having now been for a considerable time before the Congregation it was resolved by the session that intimation be made by the Moderator on Sabbath first of a meeting of the Congregation for the election of three or four additional Elders and fix upon Thursday after the second Sabbath from the day of intimation for that purpose. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill Feby 14th 1850

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, George Hunter & Robert Johnston, ruling elders. The Meeting for the election of Elders having taken place the following persons elected by the Congregation compeared viz Thomas Moar, James Spence, John Spence, John Miller and Willm. Johnston and declared there acceptance of office. It was intimated to the individual Elders elect that they should communicate with the Modr. Appointed next meeting of session on Tuesday or Thursday week after next. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 27th Feby 1850

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Hugh Miller, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, Oliver Johnston, George Hunter, John Johnston, rulling elders. The Moderator reported that Archibald Harvey had applied for baptism for his child. Being examined as to his religious knowledge his answers were satisfactory he had read the Testimony and was prepared to give in his adherence to it. He also promised to embrace the first opportunity of joining in the sacrament. After some conversation it was agreed that his Child be baptized. It was agreed that the sacrament of our Lord's Supper be dispenced in the congregation on the Fourth Sabbath of March and intimation to be made next Sabbath. Also that the Synod's collection be taken up on the second Sabbath of March and intimation to be made accordingly. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 8th March 1850

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Hugh Miller, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, Oliver Johnston, Robert Johnston, John Johnston and George Huntow ruling Elders. The moderator intimated that the individuals elected to the office of Eldership having in presence of the session declared their acceptance and having conversed with him he declared himself satisfied as to their fitness for the office. It was agreed that an edict be served in the Congregation at the close of worship in the afternoon that John Spence, James Spence, Thomas Moar, William Johnston and John Miller the Elders elect having accepted the office the session appointed their next meeting on Friday the 15th March at 2 o'clock and any persons having objections to any of these individuals will have opportunity of urging them and certifying that if no reasonable objections are given in the session will proceed with their ordination without delay. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 15th March 1850

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Hugh Miller. Ceasar Johnston, Oliver Johnston, John Johnston, George Huntow, Elders. The Moderator mentioned that the following persons had conversed with him in view of joining at the communion with whose knowledge he was satisfied. They had read the Testimony and were ready to give in there adherence viz Archibald Harvey, John Spence, Alexr Moar, Marget Stenger, Catharine Moar and Mary Spence. The Session approving it was agreed they should be admitted. Jannet Harvey who had been admitted at the previous communion to be instructed to come forward and give in her accession with the others. With respect to Elizabeth Flett who had made application the session appointed two of their number to make inquiries at the members in her neighbourhood and to proceed according to the report they might have. No objections having been offered to any of the Elders elect the session appointed their ordination to take place at the close of sermon on Thursday 21 inst. being the fast day before the communion. The session to meet at least 10 minutes before the commencement of publick worship. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 21 March 1850

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Hugh Miller, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Oliver Johnston, Robert Johnston and George Huntow Elders. An edict intimating that the Elders elect would be ordained this day if no valid objections were made was appointed to be read in the congregation. And no objections appearing the session proceeded constituted to the Meeting house. After sermon the Moderator having stated the various steps then called upon the Elders elect viz Thomas Moar, John Spence, James Spence, John Miller, William Johnston and after putting to them the questions of the Formula and offering up Prayer solemnly ordained and set them apart to the office of rulling Elders in the congregation. The Moderator and other members gave them the right hand of Fellowship. And after suitable address to them and the congregation, the session retired to the mance when the names of the newly ordained elders were added to the roll of the Session. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 16 May 1850

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Hugh Miller, John Moar, John Johnston, James Spence, John Miller, William Johnston, Ceasar Johnston and George Huntow Elders. A Fama having been brought into the session that Samuel Addamson , James Gorrie and Peter Stengerth had been overtaken with drink in Stromness on a late occation. After some conversation on the matter and it being reported by some of the members that they had conversed with the parties about it the session came to the resolution that it would answer all the ends of discipline to appoint two or more of their number to converse with them To warn them of their danger and admonish them to be more guarded in their conduct in future and appointing two or more of the Elders who attend the same meeting to converse with them. Closed with Prayer.

Mance above the hill 7 June 1850

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston, John Miller, Oliver Johnston, George Huntow and Thomas Moar ruling Elders. The Moderator drew the attention of the session to the propriety of fixing the time for the sacrament. He mentioned as a difficulty the probability of the Ordination at Kirkwall taking Place at that time. But in the absence of all information upon the point and as our men leave for the Herring fishing by the third week of July It could not be delayed later than the 2nd Sabbath of that month. The session therefore unanimously agree that the sacrament of the Lord's Supper be dispenced in the congregation on 1st Sabbath of July or at the latest 2nd Sabbath being respectively the 7 & 14th day of that month, the previous Thursday to be observed as a fast day. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill July 5th 1850

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, Oliver Johnston, John Johnston, Oliver Johnston, Robert Johnston, George Huntow, James Spence, Thomas Moar, John Spence, ruling Elders. The Moderator stated that a few persons had been conversing with him with a view of joining at the sacrament for the first time with whose religious knowledge he was satisfied. They had read the Testimony and were prepared to give in their adherence. The session after delivering their minds agreed that the four following be admitted viz Peter Brown, William Isbester, Helen Spence & Barbra Spence. The case of Catharine Stanger one of those who had made application was delayed. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 20 Augt 1850

The session met and was constituted with prayer by the moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, George Huntow, James Spence elders. There being no business before the session closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill Oct 15th 1850

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, John Miller, James Spence and Thomas Moar ruling Elders. The session agreed that John Miller be appointed as Elder to assist Hugh Miller in Costa and Thomas Moar to assist Ceasar Johnston in Marwick, James Spence to the Hillside and Waterside, William Johnston to the Burnside and John Spence to Swannayside. It was proposed to divide the north side of the Barrony into three districts instead of two as at present but the question was in the meantime defered. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 2nd Jany 1851

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederant with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston Robert Johnston, George Huntow, William Johnston, Thomas Moar & John Spence Ruling Elders. The session unanimously agreed that Thursday the 9 of January be observed in the congregation as a day of Humiliation and Thanksgiving and that the collection on that day be for the Synod's fund in fulfilment of the injunctions of the synod to that effect. There being no other business the meeting was closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 21 Jany 1851

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, James Spence, John Miller, Oliver Johnston, William Johnston, George Hunter, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Thos Moar, John Spence, Robert Johnston ruling Elders. Thomas Spence who had fallen into the sin of drunkenness and had been citted to appear once and again before the session appeared before them. He made confession of his sin, said that in his first citation he was prevented by his occupation and in the other he was restrained by shame. He confessed he did wrong in being restrained by such a cause, promised all due subjection in future And that he would in strength of Divine Grace against the sin in future. After admonition by the Moderator it was agreed that he would be restored to his priviledges as a member of the congregation. It was resolved that the sacrament of the Lord's Supper be dispenced in the congregation on the second sabbath of March being the 9th of the month. The previous Thursday to be observed as a fast day. Appoint next meeting of session the week after the 2 Sabbath of Feb 2 Closed with Prayer.

Mance above the hill 11th Feby 1851

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, George Huntow, James Spence, John Miller, Thomas Moar, John Spence & William Johnston ruling Elders. It was stated by one of the members that John Harvey desired that his case be brought before the session in order to his restoration. The session having the evidence of his present state of mind appointed two of there members viz Ceasar Johnston and George Huntow to wait upon him and according to the frame in which they find him to summon him to the next meeting of session when his case will be taken up. With respect to John Gaddie who had been reported to the session as having acted in a manner that brought reproach upon the congregation. It was agreed in the meantime that he be laid aside from priviledges and his case be taken up after the communion. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 28 Feb 1851

The Session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederant with him Hugh Miller, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Oliver Johnston, Robert Johnston, John Miller, James Spence, George Hunter, Thomas Moar, John Moar, elders. The Moderator reported that the following persons had been conversing with him about joining at the aproaching communion viz Benjamin Spence, Nicol Folster, James Miller, Alexander Johnston, Matilda Gaddie, & James Auld. They told him they had read the Testimony and so far as they understood it approved it and were ready to give in there adherence to it. No objections being offered the Session unanimously agreed that they be admited to membership in the congregation. John Harvey appeared before the session who had been laid aside from priviledges for many years and desired restoration. The case was complicated but upon the best consideration taking into account his great age and his approved deep exercise they saw it their duty to restore him strongly urging upon him through divine grace to act in such a manner as to justify the session in the decision they have come to in his case. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 2nd April 1851

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederant with him Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston, George Hunter, John Spence, John Miller, James Spence, Thomas Moar Elders. Appointed the moderator with John Spence & John Miller to call on John Gaddie and converse with him about his case as mentioned in a previous minute. Appointed a collection to b taken up for the synod on the second Sabbath of April. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 1st June 1851

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederant with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston, Thomas Moar, James Spence and William Johnston, Elders. It was proposed and aggred to that the sacrament of the Lord's Supper be dispenced in the congregation on the first Sabbath of July ensuing. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 27 June 1851

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, Oliver Johnston, Robert Johnston, John Johnston, James Spence, Hunter, Thomas Moar Elders. The moderator reported that only one person had been conversing with him in view of joining at the communion. viz. Catharine Hunter, that he was satisfied with knowledge, that she had read the Testimony and so far as she understood it approved of it and was ready to give in her adherence to it. No objection being offered the session agreed that she be admitted and that she give in her accession at a further occasion when there are others coming forward. The session also appointed Thursday next to be observed as a fast day in view of the communion. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 28 October 1851

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, John Miller, Thomas Moar, George Hunter, John Spence, James Spence, Robert Johnston, Ruling Elders. No business being before the session closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill 25 November 1851

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, John Johnston, George Hunter, John Miller, James Spence, Thomas Moar, Ceasar Johnston, Robert Johnston Elders.

It was stated by the Moderator that the Presbytery at its last meeting at Kirkwall recommended to the several congregations in their bounds the observance of a day of Humiliation and Thanksgiving and in accordance therewith the session appoint Thursday 11 December next to be observed in the congregation for that purpose. The collection on that day to be devoted to the Edinburgh Bible Society. Closed with Prayer.

Mance above the hill 26 Decr. 1851

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, John Johnston, George Hunter, John Miller, James Spence, Thomas Moar, Ceasar Johnston, Robert Johnston, Ruling Elders. It was reported to the session that Peter Folster and Marget Stevenson young persons belonging to the congregation but not yet joined in communion guilty of AntInuptial fornication had made application to some of the Elders to be admitted to the discipline of the Church. Having talked over the case the session appointed George Hunter the elder of the quarter to intimate to them that the session request their attendance at the next meeting of which due intimation will be given from the pulpit. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill Jan 15th 1852

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, John Johnston, Robert Johnston, John Spence, Thomas Moar, George Hunter, John Miller, Ceasar Johnston Elders.

Peter Folster and Margret Stevenson the persons mentioned in former minute compeared before the Session and having expressed their desire to be admitted to the discipline of the Church, the session proceeded to question them as to the nature of their sin, whether it was a single unguarded act or whether it had been repeatedly committed and having answered this question satisfactorily an enquiry was then made into their motives for wishing to be admitted to discipline And had they respect to God or merely to men. The session being satisfied as to this point unanimously agreed that they be admitted to discipline and having given them suitable counselling appointed that they appear before the congregation on the afternoon of Sabbath the 25th inst and then & there to be publickly rebuked for the sin and scandal which they have publickly committed and appointed them to attend the next meeting of session. The session then took under consideration the propriety of fixing the time for next sacrament and agreed to fix it to be observed in the Congregation on the first Sabbath of March, the previous Thursday to be observed as a fast day. Closed with prayer.

Mance above the hill Feby 5th 1852

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston, John Miller, Thomas Moar, Oliver Johnston Ruling Elders. Peter Folster and Marget Stevenson mentioned in former minutes compeared before them having undergone a publick rebuke in accordance with the sentance of the Session at its last meeting. They were questioned as to their exercise and state of mind since they were last before them. With their appearance and answers as far as they were able to judge the Session were satisfied and appointed them to appear before the congregation on Sabbath next the 8th Current for the purpose of being admonished and absolved. Closed with Prayer.

Mance above the hill 27th Feby 1852

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Oliver Johnston, George Hunter, James Spence, John Spence, John Miller & Thomas Moar Ruling Elders. The moderator stated that six persons had made application to him for admission at the ensuing communion. He was satisfied with their religious knowledge, they stated that they had read the Testimony and so far as they understood it were ready to give in their adherence to it. The session agreed after considering the various applications that they be received. Their names are as follows John Gaddie, Helen Skinner, Jannet Gaddie, Peter Folster, Margt Stevenson, and Alexander Hunter. Closed with Prayer.

Manse above the hill 9th April 1852

The session met and was constituted with Prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, John Miller, James Spence, Thomas Moar, Robert Johnston, Oliver Johnston, William Johnston, John Spence, George Hunter, Elders. The session on account of the important matters likely to be discussed at the approaching meeting of Synod resolved on this occasion to send a representative Elder to the Synod and unanimously agreed John Spence be commissioned for that purpose. Closed with Prayer.

At the Meeting house above the hill May 11th 1852.

The session met and was constituted by the Modr. Sederent with him Hugh Miller, John Moar, Ceasar Johnston, John Johnston, Robert Johnston, John Miller, George Hunter, William Johnston, James Spence, Thos Moar, Oliver Johnston, Ruling Elders.

(Mr Brash ordained 3rd Nov 1853)

Bove the hill 10th Feby 1854

The session met this evening & was constituted with prayer by the Revd R Brack Moderator, Sederunt with him Cesar Johnston, John Miller, George Hunter, John Spence, John Johnston, Robt Johnston, Wm Johnston & Thos Moar elders. Agreed to set apart Thursday first as a day of humiliation before the Lord both in reference to the congregation the sins of the community the painful aspect of public matters. The Session then considered the propriety of celebrating the ordinance of the Lord's Supper for the observance God willing as early as convenient, appointed the 3rd Sab of April for the observance God willing for that solemnity, after further conversation closed with prayer.

Bove the hill 7th April 1854

The Session met this evening & was constituted by the Moderator. Sederunt with him Hugh Millar, Ceasar Johnston, Oliver Johnston, John Johnston, R Johnston, George Hunter, John Spence, John Miller, Wm Johnston, & Thos Moar. The Moderator stated that 17 persons had conversed with him in view of the communion. Viz Andrew Spence, Margaret Johnston, John Johnston, Jessie Johnston, Jane Johnston,

Mary Ann Brown, Grace Johnston, Margaret Mowat, David Folster, Cathrine Johnston, Charlote Gorie, Hanna Johnston, Margaret LInklater, Margt. Folster, Margt Hunter, Hannah Harvey, James Bias. The Moderator stated he was satisfied with their knowledge, that they had all read the testimony save one, & was prepared to give their accession to it. It was agreed unanimously that they all be admitted save Margt Mowat, her elder, Oliver Johnston was appointed to tell her so. Closed with prayer.

Bove the hill Oct 1854

The Session met and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator. Sederunt with him H Miller, C Johnston, J Johnston, R Johnston, G Hunter, J Spence, J Miller, Thos Moar & Wm Johnston. The Session then considered the propriety of celebrating the ordinance of the Supper and questioned the Moderator to procure assistance as early as convenient. The case of Oliver Johnston, Elder who forgot or mistook the Sabbath for a week and did proceed to work as usual was then considered after deliberation that which the circumstance was deeply deplored the session appointed 2 of their number to converse with Oliver and to intimate that he has to take no part in the approaching ordenance. Closed with prayer.

Bove the hill 24 Novr 1854

The session met this evening and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator. Sederent with him C Johnston, J Johnston, R Johnston, G Hunter, J Millar, T Moar. The Moderator then stated that after repeated disappointments Mr Barr was to assist at the ordinance of the secession on the 1th Sab of Dec. He also stated that 6 persons had conversed with a view of joining viz Isabella Folster, Mary Folster, Jane Taylor, Janet Folster, Isabella Moar, John Wishart, that he was satisfied with their knowledge, that they had all read the testimony save J Wishart who promised to do so without delay & that they all were prepared to adhere to it - it was unanimously agreed to admit them the elders of their districts to give to give them due notice. Thursday 1st was appointed a fast day & the 1st Sab of December for the ordinance of the supper. Closed with prayer.

Bove the hill 13 May (1855)

The session met this evening and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator. Sederant with him C Johnston, R Johnston, J Johnston, G Hunter, J Spence, Wm Johnston. It was agreed to cite Thomas Deerness and Margaret Harvey to the next meeting of session on the charge of antenuptial fornication & appointed R Johnston to investigate the fama on Janet Stanger & report at next meeting,

Bove the hill 3 June (1855)

On that day and place the session met and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator. Sederant with him C Johnston, R Johnston, J Johnston, Wm

Johnston, G Hunter &J Millar. Compeared Thos Deerness & Margaret Harvey referred to in former minutes, confessed themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication, as they displayed a spirit consistent with the position & profession with willingness to submit to the discipline of the Church the session appointed them to make their 1st appearance for rebuke on the 1st Sab. of June. No satisfactory report was given in the case of Janet Stanger. The session proceeded to take into consideration the appointing of a day for celebrating ordinance of the Supper in this congregation and fixed upon the 2nd Sab in July for that purpose God willing & appoint intimation to be made accordingly Closed with prayer.

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Elders ordained on formation of congregation prior to 1802

Hugh Miller Costa		(died 1854)	
John Moar Slinghorn		(joined F C 1852)	
George Moar	Farafield	(emigrated to America)	
Peter Spence	Swanney	(died 185?)	
William Johnston	Wattle	(join N Light Antiburgh 1806	
James Marwick	Evie	(")	
James Anderson	do	(")	

George Flett	Costa			
James Bias Flaws				
William Bias				
George Hourston	KIrbuster			
Magnus Flett	Haas			
Oliver Johnston	Cloke			
Ceasar Johnston	Northside			
John Johnston	Smearharts?			

Robert Johnston	Bathgate
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John Spence	Costa
James Spence	Hillside
John Millar	Costa
Thos Moar	Marwick
Wm Johnston	Palace

Andrew Spence	Glebe
Wm Isbister	Ingsay

George Brown	Southside
Wm Adamson	Palace

Peter Spence	Hillside
Peter Isbister	Ingsay

Thos Harvey

G Brown

Peter Harvey