

**WITCHCRAFT IN KENMORE,
1730-57: EXTRACTS
FROM THE KIRK SESSION
RECORDS OF THE PARISH**

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JOHN CHRISTIE

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Witchcraft in Kenmore,

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*EXTRACTS FROM THE KIRK SESSION
RECORDS OF THE PARISH,*

COMPILED BY

JOHN CHRISTIE,

BOLFRACKS COTTAGE, ABERFELDY.

Aberfeldy:

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WITCHCRAFT IN KENMORE.

I.

Kenmore, January 4, 1730.

Comp: Elespeth N'gorrive, and complained of being accused of witchcraft by John M'intyre, Taylor in port, and Mary N'Arthure his wife, before Christian Waker and her son Alexr. Waker in port.

Kenmore, January 11, 1730.

Upon sunds. compeared Elespeth N'gorrive forsd and John M'intyre. The Session passed them both this time with a Sessional rebuke, with certification, &c.

II.

Laws, Aug: 23 [1730].

The Session appoints Margaret N'Grgor, Widow in Tomb, to be sund. to yr next dyet at Kenmore.

Kenmore, Aug: 30, 1730.

Margaret M'Grigar forsd called, compeared and denyed she slandered John Lumsdan as guilty of ye death of her children by witchcraft.

III.

Kenmore, June 11th, 1747.

Margaret Robertson in Rumuckie compeared before the Session complaining that she was very unjustly charged with witchcraft and enchantments, and particularly that Archibald Cameron, and his wife Margaret M'Donald, in Rumuckie, did charge her with these diabolical arts, and therefore craved that the Session should enquire into this scandal by which her character suffers so much in the eyes of her neighbours. The Session appoints the said Archibald Cameron and his wife to be summon'd against the first Lord's Day.

Kenmore, June 14th, 1747.

Compeared the said Margaret Robertson insisting in her former complaints against the said Archibald Cameron and his wife Margaret M'Donald, and the said Archibald Cameron and his wife being call'd compeared, and being interrogat as to Margaret Robertson's charge against them, they acknowledged that they heard the said Margaret Robertson accused of and charged with witchcraft, and praying curses and imprecations upon themselves or any that would come to Patrick Tosach's possessions, and particularly that John Ferguson and his wife Janet Clerich, Rumuckie, said so to them, and the said John Ferguson and his wife being present, she, the wife, acknowledged that she told as above to Archibald and his wife, and declares that she heard Margaret Robertson frequently praying curses and imprecations upon Archibald Cameron, or any other that would come to Patrick Tosach's place, particularly that ill meeting and ill fitting might he have and ill might he thrive, and that she often rebuk'd her for her curses, and she further declares that early on the Munday morning before the neighbours were up that Archibald Cameron came down the loch with his effects to take possession of Tosach's place, she saw Margaret Robertson go to the loch side with her rock and spindle, and she saw her either tying or untying the threed at her spindle

about the busses, and added what could she be doing there with her rock spindle and threed if she was not about some bad designs. The said Margaret Robertson owns she went early in the morning that day to the loch side to gather some sticks to make ready some meat to a step-son of hers who was going early from home, and that accordingly she did gather some sticks and brought them home, but refuses yt she was upon any bad designs, or that ever she imprecated any curses to Archibald Cameron or any other. Janet Clerich being asked if any other heard Margaret Robertson praying curses as above, she answered that no doubt a great many might and did hear her, as she was often guilty of it; and John Ferguson being present declares that one day she, the said Margaret, was cutting kail in Patrick Tosach's garden, he being at some distance heard her say distinctly, "she would not conceal from any that she prayed the curse of God upon any that was the occasion of Patrick Tosach's removal from his place," but says there was nobody present with him when he heard her say so, but thinks that Patrick Tosach's wife was with her at the time. The said Janet Clerich being again asked if any other heard Margaret Robertson cursing Archibald Cameron, she answered that Janet Walker about Acharn told her that she was present in Patrick Tosach's garden the time condescended upon by John Ferguson, and that she then heard her pray curses as John Ferguson had declared, and Janet Clerich further declares that she sent, at least desired, Katrine M'Lauchlan to go to the said Margaret Robertson, and to tell her to forbear her curses, but does not remember of any being present when she heard Margaret Robertson utter the said curses but small children. Margaret Robertson denies the charge laid against her by John Ferguson, but owns she was in the said garden with Patrick Tosach's wife and the said Janet Walker. She further refuses that the sd Katrine M'Lauchlan came to her with any such message. The Session appoints the said Janet Walker and Kathrin M'Lauchlan to be summonsd against this day eight days, and delays this affair till that day.

Kenmore, June 21, 1747.

Compeard the said Margaret Robertson and John Ferguson and his wife. The said Katrine M'Lachlane being summonsd and called compeard, and being interrogat whether or not the said Janet Clerich sent her with such a message to the said Margaret Robertson owned that she was, but did not deliver the message, and she further declares that, when in company with the said Janet Clerich and Janet Walker, she heard the said Margaret Robertson say that she would not conceal from any she wisht all curses upon the first that would undermine Patrick Tosach to take his possession.

The said Janet Walker was not in the country, and therefore was not summonsd. She is ordered to be cited against this day eight days. The Session delays this affair till said day.

Kenmore, June 28th, 1747.

The said (Janet Walker) being call'd but compeard not. The Session orders the officer to summonsd her against this day eight days; he says she was not in the country when he went to her house last week.

Kenmore, July 5th, 1747.

The said Janet Walker, being summonsd and call'd, compeard, and being interrogat whether or not she ever heard the said Margaret Robertson praying curses upon Archibald Cameron, or any other that would come to Patrick Tosach's possession, declares that she heard her, the said Margaret Robertson, upon a certain Lord's Day, when in company with ye s'd Katrine M'Laughlan and Janet Clerich at her the said Janet Walker's house, praying the curse of God and her curse upon the first that would undermine Patrick Tosach; and she further declares that afterwards, when in company with the said Margaret Robertson and Ann Douglas, Patrick Tosach's wife, in Patrick Tosach's garden, she heard her, the said Margaret Robertson, pray to God that the first that would undermine Patrick Tosach or that would be the occasion of

his removal should drown by the sea or water; she declares she was in the garden all the time that Margaret Robertson was in it, but does (*not*) remember that the said Margaret said at that time that she would not conceal from any that she prayed the curse of God, &c., but remembers that she said these words the first day. The Session having read over all the declarations relative to this affair, and having asked, the said Margaret Robertson what she had to say for herself, she refuses the charge as laid in the said declarations, but acknowledges that she had said when in wrath, the devil take them in the air that were the first instruments of Patrick Tosach's removals. The Session after considering the above declarations, and the said Margaret Robertson's own confession, unanimously find her guilty of praying curses and imprecations, and therefore appoint her to stand three several Lord's Days before the congregation, and there to be rebuk'd for her sin and scandal, reserving her further prosecution to their after consideration, but do not find her guilty of witchcraft, and therefore they appoint the said Janet Clerich, who accus'd Margaret Robertson of witchcraft, to be rebuk'd before the Session for rising and spreading such a scandal, and the rebuke to be publicly intimated to the congregation on the Lord's Day; thereafter the said Margaret Robertson being call'd, and the above sentence relative to her was intimated to her, and she ordered to stand before the congregation first Lord's Day—the said Janet Clerich not being present, the Beedal is ordered to summond her the next Lord's Day.

IV.

Kenmore, July 19th, 1747.

Janet M'Intaggart, daughter to Gilbert M'Intaggart in Wester Aucharn, who was charged with using some charms and enchantments against Alexander Fisher in Wester Aucharn,