

# Associate Congregation of Forres Baptisms & Births, 1772-1792

## History

A Secession congregation is thought to have been established in Forres in 1768. In 1770, Mr Thomas Duncan was under call to Elgin and Forres but by March 1772 Mr Duncan was assigned to Elgin alone and Forres was to be preached vacant. The first church is understood to have been built that same year, which may be taken as the date of the congregation's independent origin.

The first minister, Mr William Bennet, from Milnathort was not, however, ordained until August 1774. Session minutes survive from this date till 1794, and include a register of baptisms.

When Mr Bennet died on 20th November 1798, in the 49th year of his age and 25th of his ministry, the congregation was in a weak state, and as the accessions only averaged from 1 to 5 annually in the latter years of Mr Bennet's ministry, the tendency must have been to decline.

Ministers of the Church from 1774 to 1898 are as follows:

1774-1798 William Bennet

1802-1849 Thomas Stark

1849-1857 Adam Lind Simpson

1857-1898 William Watson

## References

Small, Rev Robert (1904) History of the Congregations of the United Presbyterian Church 1733-1900.2 Volumes. D M Small, Edinburgh.

*Wherever possible, original spellings have been used; comments or notes added are enclosed by square brackets (“[“ and “]”); and details that cannot be read indicated by question marks (“?????”).*

## Associate Congregation of Forres Baptism & Births, 1772-1792

Name/Parents/Witnesses	Bapt/Born
SMITH, Katharine James Smith, Farmer, Balnegeith & Mary Duncan David Duncan, Farmer, Golford; Hugh Falconer, Farmer, Balnegeith	Bapt 22 July 1772 Born 20 July 1772
CUMMING, Margaret William Cumming, Teacher of a Private School, Forres & Isabel Skeen Hugh Falconer, Farmer, Balnegeith; William Austie, Butcher, Forres; Margaret Hoyes; [Margaret] Bremner, spouse to John Lillie, Butcher, Forres	Bapt 7 Dec 1773 Born 25 Nov 1773
SMITH, William James Smith, Farmer, Balnegeith & Mary Duncan The Rev Mr William Bennet; William Cumming, Teacher of a Private School, Forres	Bapt 30 Oct 1774 Born 27 Oct 1774
ANDERSON, Elspet James Anderson, Farmer, Tarres & Jean Miller	Bapt 5 Mar 1775
HENDRY, John John Hendry, Farmer, Forres & Ann Grant	Bapt 12 Mar 1775
ROBERTSON, Katharine James Robertson, Gardener, Forres & Katharine Ross	Bapt 21 May 1775
PYPER, Ann James Pyper, Merchant, Forres & [Elizabeth Grant]	Bapt 30 Jul 1775
HUTCHESON, Janet James Hutcheson, Farmer & [blank]	Bapt 10 Dec 1775
MCINTOSH, Margaret James McIntosh, Shoemaker, Forres & Christian Clark	Bapt 5 Feb 1775
SMITH, [blank, daughter] Alexander Smith, Blacksmith, Burgie & [blank]	Bapt 18 Feb 1776
KELLIE, Jean Alexander Kellie, Farmer, Kilflet & Elisabeth Smith	Bapt 10 Mar 1776
MAIN, William William Main, Farmer, Forres & Elspet Young The Rev Mr William Bennet, Pastor to the Associate Congregation of Forres; William Cumming, Teacher of a Private School, Forres	Bapt 21 Apr 1776 Born Apr 1776
BENNET, Thomas The Rev Mr William Bennet, Minister, Forres & Margaret Hoyes	Bapt 28 May 1776 Born 22 May 1776

<b>Name/Parents/Witnesses</b>	<b>Bapt/Born</b>
ROBERTSON, Alexander James Robertson, Gardener, Forres & Katharine Ross	Bapt 22 Sep 1776
MCINTOSH, Margaret John McIntosh, Farmer, Lauchlanwell & Isabel Rose John Anderson, Farmer, Mounthaughy; Gilbert ??????, Farmer, Kilbuiack	Bapt 4 Feb 1777
MCINTOSH, Isabel James McIntosh, Shoemaker, Forres & Christian Clark	Bapt 3 Nov 1776
ANDERSON, George James Anderson, Farmer, Tarres & Jean Miller	Bapt 8 Apr 1777
ROBERTSON, Alexander Hugh Robertson, Farmer, Moories Cairn & [blank]	Bapt 10 Aug 1777
SMITH, Alexander Alexander Smith, Blacksmith, Burgie & [blank]	Bapt 16 Nov 1777
SMITH, Mary James Smith, Farmer, Balnegeith & Mary Duncan Andrew Garden, Farmer, Banlegeith; Robert Smith, Heckler	Bapt 4 Jan 1778 Born 30 Dec 1777
AUSTIE, Charles William Austie, Butcher, Forres & Christian Reid	Bapt 23 Nov 1777
ROBERTSON, Jean Alexander Robertson, Taylor, Forres & Ann Ellies	Bapt 23 Apr 1778
MCINTOSH, John John McIntosh, Farmer, Lauchlanwell & Isabel Rose “died in his eleventh month.”	Bapt 24 May 1778 Born 20 May 1778
ROBERTSON, John James Robertson, Gardener, Forres & Katharine Ross	Bapt 14 Feb 1779
PYPER, Ann James Pyper, Merchant, Forres & [Elizabeth Grant]	Bapt 7 Jun 1778
KELLIE, Gilbert Alex’r Kellie, Farmer, Kilflet & Elizabeth Smith	Bapt 3 Nov 1778
MCINTOSH, John James McIntosh, Shoemaker, Forres & Christian Clark	Bapt 13 Dec 1778
SINCLAR, Margaret Robert Sinclar, Merchant, Forres & Margaret Robertson John Sinclar, Merchant, Forres; Thomas Tilly senior, Weaver; Margaret Sinclar	Bapt 11 Apr 1779 Born 8 Apr 1779

<b>Name/Parents/Witnesses</b>	<b>Bapt/Born</b>
SMITH, Isabel Alexander Smith, Blacksmith, Burgie & [blank]	Bapt 29 Aug 1779
ROBERTSON, [blank] Hugh Robertson, Farmer, Mooriescairn & [blank]	Bapt 15 Aug 1779
HUTCHESON, William John Hutcheson, Farmer, Whiteraw & [blank]	Bapt 12 Dec 1779
ASHER, Margaret Hugh Asher, Farmer, Coltfoot & Janet Young William Elgin, Indweller, Coltfoot; James Young, Westfield	“a few days after” Born 28 Aug 1780
MCINTOSH, Isobel John McIntosh, Farmer, Lauchlanwell & Isabel Rose	Bapt 15 Mar 1781 Born 7 Mar 1781
ROSS, William Alexander Ross, Labourer, Bennaferry & Ann Shaw William Thomson, Weaver, above Moss of Tarres; William Thomson, Weaver, New Forres	Bapt 15 Apr 1781 Born 11 April 1781
BENNET, William The Rev Mr William Bennet, Minister, Forres & Margaret Hoyes	Bapt 24 May 1781 Born 19 May 1781
ROBERTSON, Archibald James Robertson, Gardener, Forres & Katharine Ross	Bapt 1 Jul 1781 Born 18 Jun 1781
ALEXANDER William John Alexander, Weaver, Whiteraw & Christian Smith William Smith, Merchant, Forres; William Cumming, teacher of a private school, Forres	Bapt 4 Jul 1781 Born 30 Jun 1781
SINCLAR, Janet Robert Sinclar, Merchant, Forres & Margaret Robertson William Main, Farmer, Forres; Thomas Tilly junior, Weaver, Forres; Janet Tilly, daughter to Thomas Tilly senior, Weaver, Forres	Bapt 14 Oct 1781 Born 9 Oct 1781
FRASER, Thomas James Fraser junior, Merchant, Forres & Margaret Eddie	Bapt 23 Dec 1781
PYPER, Elisabeth James Pyper, Merchant, Forres & [Elizabeth Grant]	Bapt 30 Dec 1781
SMITH, Ann James Smith, Farmer, Balnegeith & Mary Duncan Alexander son to William Smith, Blacksmith, Forres; John Duncan, Squarewright, Forres; Ann Duncan, Midwife	Bapt 13 Jan 1782 Born 5 Jan 1782

<b>Name/Parents/Witnesses</b>	<b>Bapt/Born</b>
FRIGGE, Elizabeth William Frigge, Squarewright, Forres & Elisabeth Anderson Alexander Sutter of Marquisie; Claudius Laird; Elizabeth, daughter to William Anderson, Miller, Dalvey	Bapt 3 Feb 1782 Born 25 Jan 1782
FRASER, Alexander James Fraser, Miller, Milns of Forres & Christian McBain Alexander Sutter, Tacksman, Milns of Forres; Alex'r Anderson, Dweller, Milns of Forres	Bapt 17 Feb 1782 Born 13 Feb 1782
KELLIE, Isabel Alexander Kellie, Farmer, Kilflet & Elisabeth Smith	Bapt 17 Feb 1782
ROBERTSON, Elisabeth Hugh Robertson, Farmer, Mooriescairn & [blank]	Bapt 2 Jun 1782
ASHER, Elisabeth Hugh Asher, Farmer, Coltfoot & Janet Young Andrew Duffus, Shoemaker, Alves; George Sim, Farmer, Coltfoot	Bapt 29 Aug 1783 Born 22 Aug 1783
BOWER, Helen David Bower, Gardener, Altyre & Alison Russell Lady Altyre; Robert Fimister, Farmer, Whiteraw; James Robertson, Farmer, Boghole	Bapt 14 Jul 1782 Born 6 Jul 1782
MAIN, John William Main, Farmer, Forres & Elspet Young John Hoyes, Merchant, Forres; John Young, Mason, Forres	Bapt 8 Dec 1782 Born 6 Dec 1782
GRANT, Jean James Grant, Mason, Forres & Jean Smith James ??????, Merchant; Alexander Smith, Blacksmith; Charles Smith, Cooper; Mr McSween, Surgeon	Bapt 25 Dec 1782 Born 23 Dec 1782
FRASER, James James Fraser junior, Merchant, Forres & Margaret Eddie	Bapt 19 Jan 1783
BENNET, Margaret The Rev Mr William Bennet, Minister, Forres & Margaret Hoyes	Bapt 3 Feb 1783 Born 31 Jan 1783
ALEXANDER, Alexander John Alexander, Weaver, Whiteraw & Christian Smith	Bapt 1 Jun 1783
FRASER, Margaret James Fraser junior, Merchant, Forres & Margaret Eddie	Bapt 20 Jun 1784
FRIGGE, John William Frigge, Squarewright, Forres & Elisabeth Anderson	Bapt 18 Jul 1784
KELLIE, Elisabeth Alex'r Kellie, Farmer, Kilflet & Elisabeth Smith	Bapt 3 Oct 1784

<b>Name/Parents/Witnesses</b>	<b>Bapt/Born</b>
GRANT, William James Grant, Mason, Forres & Jean Smith The Rev Mr William Bennet; William Smith senior, Blacksmith; William Mackie, Merchant; William Tinnie, Tobacconist, Forres	Bapt 7 Aug 1785 Born 27 Jul 1785
ASHER, Hugh Hugh Asher, Farmer, Coltfoot & Janet Young Hugh Robertson, Farmer, Moories Cairn; Hugh Asher, Den	Bapt 16 Oct 1785 Born 12 Oct 1785
FRASER, Robert James Fraser, Milln of Marquisie & Elisabeth Squire	Bapt 6 Nov 1785
BENNET, James The Rev Mr William Bennet, Minister, Forres & Margaret Hoyes	Bapt 21 Feb 1786 Born 13 Feb 1786
ROSS, Alexander Alexander Ross, Labourer, Forres & Ann Shaw	Bapt 4 Apr 1786 Born 3 Apr 1786
ALEXANDER, James John Alexander, Weaver, Whiteraw & Christain Smith	Bapt 28 May 1786
FRASER, John James Fraser junior, Merchant, Forres & Margaret Eddie	Bapt 9 Jul 1786 Born 3 Jul 1786
SMITH, John Alexander Smith, Farmer, Balnegeith & Janet Callum John Smith, Farmer, Balnegeith; John Hoyes younger, Merchant, Forres; John Smith, Farmer, Thomnamain, Dollas	Bapt 17 Jun 1787 Born 11 Jun 1787
SMITH, Alexander John Smith, Staymaker, Forres & Esther Williamson Alexander Fraser, Merchant, Forres; Alexander Elder, Merchant, Forres	Bapt 8 Jul 1787 Born 1 Jul 1787
KELLIE, Alexander Alexander Kellie, Farmer, Kilflet & Elisabeth Smith	Bapt 5 Aug 1787
RUSSELL, Isabel Alex'r Russell, Upholsterer, Forres & Janet Jamieson	Bapt 24 Feb 1788 Born 17 Feb 1788
PETERKIN, James James Peterkin junior, Merchant & Margaret Barron	Bapt 10 Aug 1788
ASHER, Janet Hugh Asher, Farmer, Coltfoot & Janet Young	Bapt 14 Sep 1788 Born 10 Sep 1788
SMITH, James Robert Smith, Flaxdresser, Forres & Christian McIntosh James Smith, Farmer, Balnegeith; James McIntosh, Farmer, Kil??????	Bapt 7 Dec 1788 Born 5 Dec 1788

<b>Name/Parents/Witnesses</b>	<b>Bapt/Born</b>
SMITH, James Alexander Smith, Farmer, Balnegeith & Janet Callum James Hoyes, Farmer, Bennyferry; James Smith, Farmer, Balnegeith	Bapt 22 Jun 1789 Born 19 Jun 1789
SMITH, Margaret John Smith, Staymaker, Forres & Esther Williamson	Bapt 13 Sep 1789 Born 6 Sep 1789
SMITH, Alexander Robert Smith, Flaxdresser, Forres & Christian McIntosh Alexander Sutter, Squarewright, Forres; Alex'r Smith, Farmer, Balnegeith; Robert Sutter, Merchant, Forres; Robert Smith, Merchant, Forres [Twin of Robert, see below]	Bapt 22 May 1791 Born 16 May 1791
SMITH, Robert Robert Smith, Flaxdresser, Forres & Christian McIntosh Alexander Sutter, Squarewright, Forres; Alex'r Smith, Farmer, Balnegeith; Robert Sutter, Merchant, Forres; Robert Smith, Merchant, Forres [Twin of Alexander, see above]	Bapt 22 May 1791 Born 16 May 1791
SMITH, Christian Alexander Smith, Farmer, Balnegeith & Janet Callum Alex'r Smith, son to Mr Smith, Farmer, Thornhill; John Smith, son to John Smith, Farmer, Dollas	Bapt 6 May 1792 Born 4 May 1792
SMITH, Jean John Smith, Staymaker, Forres & Esther Williamson	Bapt 27 May 1792
HENRY, Margaret James Henry, Weaver, Forres & Mary McBeth	Bapt 30 Sep 1792 Born 25 Sep 1792

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