

8. SCOTTISH CHARITY SCHOOLS IN THE EARLY 18TH CENTURY

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A document found in the Kinnaird family papers deposited at the Scottish Genealogy Society, and filed under Family Papers Box 62, relates to the status of the Schools maintained by *The Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge* prior to 1724. It identifies the 60 schools in existence at that time by place and parish, and names the Schoolmasters, and records how many students each schoolmaster taught.

It has been reproduced below, in slightly modified form to fit the page, but spellings and punctuation are as in the original.

A LIST of the CHARITY-SCHOOLS
Maintained by
The Society in *Scotland* for propagating *Christian Knowledge*
May 1724

Bearing the dates of their erections, the names of the particular Places, Parishes and Presbyteries wherein each school is settled, the names of the School-Masters, and Number of Scholars at each school, according to the last Accounts therefrom: And it is to be remarked, that divers of these schools being *Itinerant*, have been removed from one place to another, which occasions the dates of some of them to be so late.

Date of Erection	Particular Place	Parish	School-Masters	Boys	Girls
Mar 13 1710	Hirta or St Kilda	St Kilda	Mr Alexander Buchan	28	
Nov 17 1717	Strowan	Bracadale	Mr Alexander McLeod	40	7
June 1 1721	Glenelg	Glenelg	Norman McLeod	21	
Oct 31 1723	Ardlesbegg	Trotternish	
June 21 1721	Torleish in Mull	Torleith	John Clark	36	8
June 21 1721	Kilfinchen in Mull	Kilfinchen	Roderick McLean	16	1
June 21 1721	Pennygowan in Mull	Pennygowan	Alexander Campbell	15	
April 7 1720	Kilmalie	Kilmalie	Mr John McBean	33	6
May 26 1720	Tombowie or Faslin	Row [Rhu]	Neil Campbell	31	17
May 26 1720	Ardlewigg	Tarbat or Arochore	Donald McFarline	11	
Mar 10 1721	Sallochie	Buchanan	George Moir	32	9
May 2 1723	Parknook of Duchrae	Drymen	William Crawford	16	8
Dec 3 1719	Gartmore	Port	Mr John Dow	31	11
Apr 3 1714	Stratbyre	Balquhidder	John Buchanan	14	7
Apr 3 1714	Lochearnhead	...	James McCallum	37	5
June 27 1723	Bridge of Keltie	Callendar	James Stewart	50	20
May 26 1720	Bridge of Turk	...	John Drummond	27	7
Jan 6 1722	Cullentoigle	...	Patrick King	24	12
May 8 1714	Lochearnside	Comrie	James Drummond	45	
May 8 1714	Glenlednoch	...	James Drummond	58	
May 8 1714	Glenartna	...	Charles Bruce	32	
June 5 1718	Strowan	Blair Athol	Mr James Murray	39	5

Jan 10 1723	Kilchonan	Kilchonan in Rannoch	John Ewing	29	13
June 1 1714	Glenmuick	Glenmuick	Andrew Rule	34	11
Nov 17 1721	Cobbleheugh	Glentanner	Alexander Farquharson	42	14
Dec 7 1721	Cannacraig	Crathie	Mr John Young	28	6
May 31 1723	Corgraph (Corgarff)	Strathdon	Mr Arthur Gregory	34	22
Mar 10 1721	Bellie	Bellie	Mr John Scobie	38	13
June 1 1721	Ruthven	Botarie	Walter Johnstoun	95	26
June 1 1721	Badevochill	Kirkmichael	Mr John Forsyth	20	8
June 1 1721	Skiraldvie	Alvie	Gregor Nicolson	16	7
June 1 1721	Kincardine	Abernethie	Thomas Donaldson	28	
May 23 1723	Laggan	Laggan	Neil Bethune	8	4
May 23 1723	Tilliechonie	Edinkillie	Alexander Stewart	15	
May 23 1723	Culphern	...	John Calder	17	9
Nov 24 1714	Drummoir	...	John Henderson	12	8
Nov 24 1714	Tilliedivie	...	William Gow	18	9
June 6 1717	Kintessach	Dyke	John Alves	23	13
June 13 1723	Park	Auldearn	Walter Forbes	21	12
Mar 8 1722	Abertarph	Bolleskine	Hugh Ross	24	6
Mar 8 1722	Stratherick or Bolleskine	...	Alexander Fraser	16	4
Aug 25 1722	Moy	Dalarassie	Donald McQueen	12	9
May 15 1717	Kilmorack	Kilmorack	John Robertson	40	21
June 1 1721	Larg	Dornock	John McKay	17	7
Mar 1 1723	Scourie	Duirness	George Henderson	22	2
Nov 13 1722	Langwall	Faar	Mr William Gordon	19	4
May 2 1723	Stroma	Canasbee	George Gibson	37	15
Aug 17 1719	Hoy	Hoy	James Loutit	28	28
Aug 17 1719	Gremsey	Gremsey	William Flet	27	20
June 12 1717	Firth	Firth	James Johnstoun	49	40
June 12 1717	Stenhouse	Stenhouse	George Loutit	44	26
Mar 18 1712	Harray	Harray	Mr Alexr Moncrief	21	14
May 15 1717	Evie	Evie	Robert Brown	44	33
June 27 1723	Orphire	Orphire	Edward Wilson	32	9
Aug 17 1719	Eddaymiln	Edday	George Charles	23	15
May 12 1719	Westray	Westray	John Nicolson	42	5
Feb 4 1719	North Ronaldshay	North Ronaldshay	Thomas Purse	23	20
June 27 1723	Shappinshay	Shappinshay	Alexander Hepburn	27	4
Aug 10 1721	Unst	Unst	Francie Beattie	70	
Nov 5 1720	Halfmortoun	Halfmortoun	William Graham	22	11

The number of the Society's Schools at present are 60, they having been necessitate to supress some for Want of Funds, or else refuse places which more needed schools; at which Schools there are 1753 boys and 591 girls, in all 2344: But some of these schools being only lately erected, there are no reports yet come from them, tho' there is no doubt but that there are more scholars than re in this list. Where the reports do not distinguish the sexes, the whole number are put to the column of Boys. These schools are frequently visited, not only by the Minister of the Parish, but also by Committees appointed by the Presbytery, who Scholars, the Time of their entry, and their attendance, of which the

Masters are ordered to keep exact accounts. And once every yea, before the end of *December* at farthest, a list of the Scholars at each School that year, with an account of their Proficiency, time of entry, and what they are learning, duly attested by the Visitors, is ordered to be transmitted to the Society, which is examined by their Committee, and if herein any are found to be defective, or faulty, the same is noticed and censured. From these accounts it appears, that not only children, but in some places Servants leave their service for a time, to attend these schools, yea, even married persons come thereto. And children of Popish parents are taught the *Protestant Religion* at these schools, and many of them come to church. The Society's scholars are taught the Principles of Religion, to read *English, Writing, Arithmetick* and *Church-Musick*; and the success of this undertaking is very remarkable, and has given great satisfaction to many.

Divers of these schools being settled in remote Islands and Corners, where Ministers have two, three or more churches, at which they preach by turns, some of them but once, twice, thrice, four, five or six times in the year at most, the Society takes care, that their School-Masters sent to such places, be duly qualified, and, at the Minister's direction, do, in his absence, convene their Scholars in the church or most central place on the Lord's Day, and pray, and sing Psalms with them, and read the Holy Scripture, and a Sermon, or part of some good and Pious book to them: And in the afternoon, make the Scholars repeat the *Catechism* publicly, and catechize them, and such other persons as will submit thereto; and most of the People near to those Places do attend these Exercises, and joyn therein: And because there is a scarcity of fit persons having the *Irish* [Gaelic] language, who will accept of being School-Masters and Catechists, the Society, upon sufficient Certificates, after Trial, to Grant an Allowance of Money and Clothes to such hopeful Youths having *Irish*, as are not in Case to maintain themselves, and who will engage to serve as School-Masters in the Highlands and Islands, when found qualified: And as divers of these bred at the Society's Schools are now teaching others, both in publick Schools and private families. Any contributors who desire farther satisfaction of the premises, and of the state of the Society's affairs, may have it from the *Secretary and Clerk*, and may also have it in the printed account of the Rise, Constitution and Management of the foresaid Society. Sold by *William Brown*, Bookseller in *Edinburgh*, for Three Pence *Sterling*. This signed by Jo.Dundas., *Sec. So.*