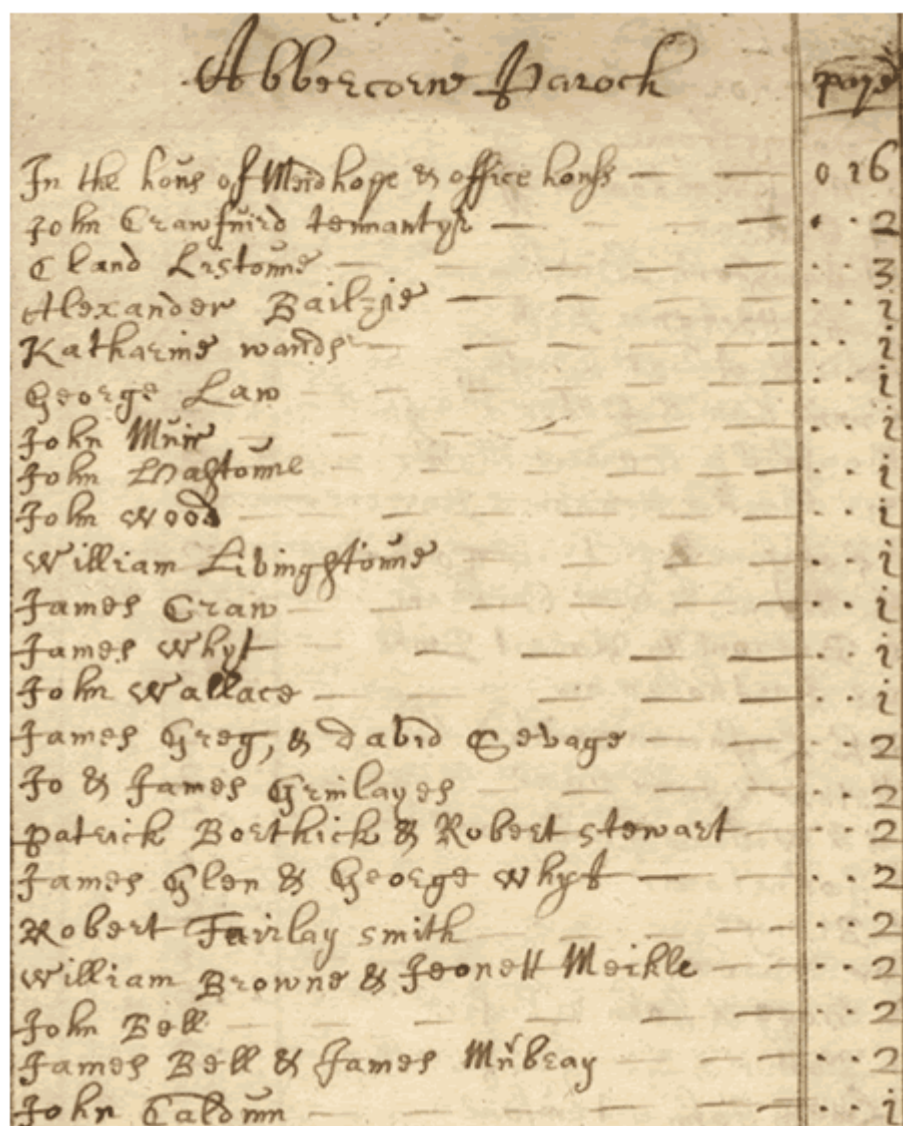


Weekly Poser (318) – Hearth tax roll for Abercorn parish, 1691

This week's poser is the hearth tax roll for Abercorn parish, 1691 (National Records of Scotland, E69/24/1).

The writing contains quite a lot of secretary hand letters, but is mostly quite clear. Some capital letters might present a problem, especially in uncommon names. As in a lot of writing of any age, consecutive letters with minims can be tricky. To help the reader differentiate the letters *u* and *n*, clerks often made a curled tittle above the word to show the presence of the letter *u*. Ideally the tittle should be above the letter *u*, but the majority of 16th and 17th century handwriting gives one the impression that precise placement of tittles was something few clerks had time for.



Abercorn Paroch		payd
In the house of M ^r Hope & office house	—	0 16
John Crawford tenant	—	.. 2
Land L ^o stome	—	.. 3
Alexander Bailzie	—	.. 2
Katharine wands	—	.. 2
George Law	—	.. 2
John M ^r ..	—	.. 2
John M ^r astome	—	.. 2
John Wood	—	.. 2
William Livingstone	—	.. 2
James Cran	—	.. 2
James Whyt	—	.. 2
John Wallace	—	.. 2
James Gray, & David Cobage	—	.. 2
Jo & James Gemlayes	—	.. 2
Patrick Borthick & Robert Stewart	—	.. 2
James Glen & George Whyt	—	.. 2
Robert Fairlay Smith	—	.. 2
William Brown & John M ^r Moikle	—	.. 2
John Bell	—	.. 2
James Bell & James M ^r Bray	—	.. 2
John Cald ^r m	—	.. 2

This week's question: is the writer of the extract above consistent with his use of tittles?

<http://www.scottishhandwriting.com>

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Answer: The writer uses curled tittles to indicate the letter *u*. However, he fails to do so in the words *hous[i]s* in line 2 and *Claud* in line 4.

Transcription

Abbercorne Paroch - payd

In the hous of Meidhope & office hous[i]s - 016

John Crawford tennant th[e]r - 2

Claud Listoune - 3

Alexander Bailzie - 1

Katharine wands - 1

George Law - 1

John Muir - 1

John Hastoune - 1

John Wood - 1

William Livingstoune - 1

James Craw - 1

James Whyt - 1

John Wallace - 1

James Greg, & David Sevage - 2

Jo[hn] & James Grimlayes - 2

Patrick Borthwick & Robert Stewart - 2

James Glen & George Whyt - 2

Robert Fairlay smith - 2

William Browne & Jeonett Meikle - 2

John Bell - 2

James Bell & James Mubray - 2

John Caldun - 1

This week's poser was contributed by 'Fodiator', a researcher from Fife.