

**Transcription of Agnes Hugh's Declaration in the trial  
of culpable homicide, 10 November 1887,  
National Records of Scotland JC26/1888/1**

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At Dunfermline the tenth  
day of November Eighteen hundred  
and eighty seven

In presence of David Gillespie, Esquire  
Advocate, Sheriff Substitute of Fife

Compeared a prisoner and the charge against  
her having been read over and explained  
to her and she having been judicially  
admonished and examined thereanent,  
Delcares:- My name is Agnes Lindsay or  
Cook or Hugh. I am fifty four years  
of age. I am the wife of Angus Hugh  
miner, Lochgelly, I am a certificated  
midwife – shown Diploma in favour of  
Mrs Cook bearer, to be signed by "Ch.  
Thatcher F.R.C. & E." dated July 26<sup>th</sup> 1882.  
which is docqueted & subscribed as relative  
hereto – That is my Certificate which  
was granted to me before I married my  
present husband. On the 31<sup>st</sup> of October  
I was in attendance on Mrs Ann Laing or  
Henderson in Lochgelly when she was  
delivered of a female child. All I've  
got to say is that when the child  
was born it cried once. When a child  
cries lustily you have to tie the ligature.  
All which is truth. I want to tell  
what I did that night. The baby cried once.  
I tried friction over the lungs to get it to  
breath. Then I applied the ligature – that means

Mrs Hugh [signed]  
David Gillespie [signed]

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the navel cord – I separated the child from the mother. The child gave two gasps. Then I got a basin & spirits & scrubbed the child.

Mrs Hugh [signed]  
David Gillespie [signed]

The Declaration written on this and the preceding page by John Crichton McIntosh sheriff Clerk Depute, Dunfermline was of the date which it bears freely and voluntarily emitted by the within designed Agnes Lindsay or Cook or Hugh while in her sound and sober senses, and on being read over was adhered to by her and was subscribed by her and the said Sheriff Substitute in presence of Andrew Burt, Solicitor, Dunfermline, the Prisoner's Agent, James McFarlane, Procurator Fiscal of court, the said John Crichton McIntosh And Arthur Webster, Inspector of the County Police at Dunfermline.

James McFarlane Witness  
John McIntosh Witness  
A.Webster. Witness