**PLACES OF INTEREST**

16 **Traquair House NT 330 355 and the Minchmuir Road**

The Marquis of Montrose banged on the door of Traquair House in 1645 but was refused admission. He had fled along the high Minchmuir Road after his Royalist troops had been routed by a Covenanting Army at Philiphaugh (NT455 282) near Selkirk.

17 **Covenanters’ Well NT 535 418**

An old well, said to have been frequented by the Covenanters. It has now vanished but the spring that once fed the well still issues forth at the site.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Covenanters were Scottish Presbyterians who objected to English Episcopalian interference in their worship. They were called Covenanters because they supported the National Covenant of 1638, which pledged opposition to the English Bishops. When Charles II was restored in 1660 many ministers left their parishes and held illegal open-air conventicles. Troops were sent in and violence erupted on both sides. Known locally as the ‘killing times’, one of the main persecutors of the Covenanters was John Graham of Claverhouse or ‘Bloody Clavers’.

Hundreds of Covenanters marched on Edinburgh but they were dispersed at the Battle of Rullion Green in the Pentland Hills on 22 November 1666. The Covenanters were routed again at Bothwell Bridge in 1670, and at Airds Moss near Cumnock, in 1680.

The Rev. Richard Cameron, who fixed the Sanquhar Declaration to the old town cross in Sanquhar, was one of those killed in the last battle. The Rev. James Renwick took up the cause but was captured and executed in Edinburgh in 1688.

**SOME OTHER COVENANTERS’ SITES IN SOUTHERN SCOTLAND**

- **Ayr**
  A memorial to seven prisoners from Pentland hanged by another prisoner, after the official hangman refused to do so.

- **Wigtown Bay**
  A stone memorial commemorates two women who were drowned for their faith: Margaret Wilson aged 18, and Margaret McLachlan aged 63.

- **Kirkcudbright**
  The churchyard has a memorial to two hanged and beheaded Covenanters.

- **Dumfries**

- **Monaive**
  An obelisk to James Renwick, born here in 1662.

- **Tweedsmuir & Moffat**
  Tweedsmuir graveyard contains several graves of martyred Covenanters. One such victim was John Hunter, who according to his tombstone, was ‘cruelly murdered at Core Head by Col. James Douglas and his party for his adherence to the Word of God and Scotland’s Covenanted Work of Reformation 1685’. There is also a roadside memorial to John Hunter, 1km west of Corehead, on the A701 at the Devil’s Beef Tub.

- **Jeburgh-Hawick**
  Peden’s Pulpit on Rubers Law (1319m) was used by Alexander Peden, an Ayrshire preacher who also travelled around the Scottish Borders.

- **Hawick**
  Drumlanrig Tower was stormed and seized by the Covenanters of Teviotdale in 1679.

- **Duns**
  Covenanters’ redoubt and stone on Duns Law (1639m).

- **Glasgow**
  The Cathedral has a memorial to nine martyrs: four were at Pentland, and five were hanged for refusing to answer questions.

- **Edinburgh**
  Greyfriar’s churchyard still has the Covenanters’ Prison which housed some 1500 men after the Battle of Bothwell Bridge. Open to the elements, many died before trial; others were shipwrecked off Orkney on the way to slavery in America.
1 Portpatrick
Many Covenanters sailed from this once busy harbour to safety in Ireland. Others sailed from Leith - as slaves for America.

2 New Luce
Alexander Peden was Minister here from 1659-62. He then preached in the Galloway hills.

3 Linn’s Tomb NX 244 725
Said to have been a shepherd from New Luce, Alexander Linn was shot by dragoons near this spot.

4 Glenvernoch NX 346 753
Home of Margaret Wilson who was tied to a stake in Wigtown Bay and drowned by the incoming tide. The house was used to garrison soldiers and her innocent father suffered many indignities.

5 Martyrs’ Tomb, Caldons NX 397 788
A memorial in the woods commemorates six Covenanters surprised at prayer and immediately shot.

6 Largmore NX 570 823
Home of John Gordon. Wounded at the battle of Rullion Green, he reached home but died soon after. He is buried at Kells churchyard, 400m north of New Galloway. His son Rodger (who fought at Bothwell) had many narrow escapes from dragoons in this vicinity.

7 Earlston Castle (3km N of Dalry)
William Gordon of Earlston was killed near Bothwell; his son Alexander escaped and was free until 1683 when he was sentenced to death at Edinburgh. He was reprieved and released in 1688.

8 St John’s Town of Dalry
The Pentland Rising started here in 1666.

9 Ardoch Farm NX 634 832
Robert Stewart of Ardoch was present when James McMichael slew the curate of Carsphairn. Hunted down on Auchendloy Hill, Stewart and John Grier are now buried in Dalry churchyard.

10 Stroanpatrick NX 644 920
A suspected informer by the name of Roan was killed near here by James McMichael whilst trying to escape from a group of Covenanters.

11 Allan’s Cairn NS 698 008
George Allan and Margaret Gracie were shot on the Fawns of Altry, an area of open moorland 1km east of the Whig’s Hole (NS 671 000) - a place for open-air conventicles. The monument was placed on the nearby junction of three parish boundaries.

12 Sanquhar
A tall obelisk in the High Street lies on the site of the old town cross where the Rev. Richard Cameron affixed the Sanquhar Declaration in 1660.

13 Glendyne (3km W of Brandleys Cottage)
This glen was much more wooded when Peden “The Prophet” used it as a hiding place.

14 Martyrs’ Knowe, Cogshead NS 834 128
Three Covenanters captured by the Laird of Drumlanrig and his soldiers made their escape here in a thunderstorm.

15 Enterkin Burn (SW side of Lowther Hill)
(i) In 1684 James McMichael, James Harkness and other Covenanters fired upon a group of soldiers who gave up their prisoners and fled. (ii) In 1685 McMichael’s brother Daniel was shot at the foot of the Dalveen Pass. (iii) A few years later six Covenanters who had escaped from Edinburgh were passing through the glen and effected the escape of two more prisoners.