

## OCHILTREE

Near Auchinleck, East Ayrshire

[70] NS 505 210

### Village

Situated on the A70, 4 miles from **Cumnock**, is the site where the Covenanters who had mustered at Brig of Doon joined three other parties under Welsh Guthrie and Chalmers, in November, 1666. <sup>1</sup>



Ochiltree, Ayrshire. The Covenanters led by **Colonel James Wallace** rested here on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1666. It was a stage of their journey that began in **St. John's Town of Dalry** on 13<sup>th</sup> November, passed on through **Cumnock** and **Lanark** and eventually ended at the fateful Battle of **Rullion Green** on 28<sup>th</sup> November.

The resting places were probably up the street (see other photos) in the large brown building on the left between the two parked vans (the Old Inn) and in the Church opposite (hidden from view)



Ochiltree Parish Church – one of the resting places of the Covenanters, as described above.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Covenanters in Cumnock.*



Main Street, Ochiltree.

### **OCHILTREE COVENANTING BANNER**

The Ochiltree Banner appears to be very similar to the **Sorn** Banner. Measuring about 6ft square, it bears the motto: ‘For God, the Covenanted Presbyterian Reformation, Crown and Country 1689.’

This banner also has the initials W.R. and a crown with the date 1689, with the addition of a thistle emblem. There is also a cross of St. Andrew and the word Ouchiltrie and the inscription: ‘Deus est semper idem’ (God is always constant.)

Local legend has it that the Ochiltree banner was made by the Cochrane family who at one time held the Barony of Ochiltree. Men gathered under the banner in the name of God, the Covenant and King William.

It may be that the Ochiltree banner like the **Sorn** Banner had the initials W.R., crown and date added in 1689 or alternatively the banner may have originally been made in 1689 when William III came to the throne.

When the covenanting troubles were over the banner was brought back to Ochiltree house where it remained until it was removed or stolen by a servant and given to a friend in the village. It next passed into the hands of Patrick Simson, a schoolmaster in Ochiltree, who in 1818 placed the Ochiltree banner into the care of Alexander Boswell of **Auchinleck**.

The banner was used by political enthusiasts in Ochiltree in 1832 but not returned to the Boswell family. After disappearing for a number of years it was given or bequeathed to the Reverend John Warrick of **Cumnock**, a well known historian of covenanting tales who donated the banner in 1930 to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland.

The Ochiltree Banner is now part of the collections of the National Museums of Scotland and the banner is currently on display at the museum in Queen Street, **Edinburgh**.<sup>1</sup>

### **OTHER COVENANTERS FROM THE PARISH OF OCHILTREE**

- **Sir John Cochrane** and his daughter, Grisell, lived in this parish.
- **David Dun**, who was shot in **Cumnock** with **Simon Paterson**.
- **Andrew Welsh** drowned in the **Crown of London** shipwreck at **Deerness**.

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<sup>1</sup> *Covenanters' Chronicle*. Ardrrossan: Guthrie Newspaper Group, January 1994.

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## **OLD BLAIR**

Near Pitlochry, Perth and Kinross  
**Old Church (ruins of St. Brides)**

[43] NN 867 664



WITHIN THE VAULT BENEATH  
ARE INTERRED THE REMAINS OF  
JOHN GRAHAM OF CLAVERHOUSE  
VISCOUNT DUNDEE  
WHO FELL AT THE BATTLE OF  
KILLIECRANKIE  
27<sup>TH</sup> JULY 1689, AGED 46  
-----  
THIS MEMORIAL IS PLACED HERE BY  
JOHN 7<sup>TH</sup> DUKE OF ATHOLE K.T.  
1889

Inscription above **John Graham Claverhouse's** vault, St. Bride's Church, Old Blair. <sup>1</sup>



St. Bride's Church, Old Blair.

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<sup>1</sup> John Graham of Claverhouse was one of the notorious persecutors of the Covenanters.

# OLD DAILLY

Near Girvan, South Ayrshire

## Old Churchyard (Parish Church)

[76] NX 225 992



Old Dailly old church and churchyard.  
Covenanters' grave in foreground.



Inscription on Semple and  
McClorgan's grave.

HERE LIES  
The corpse of JOHN  
SEMPLE who was  
shot by Kilkerran  
at command of  
Cornet James Douglas.  
Also here lies  
THOMAS M<sup>c</sup>CLORGAN  
who was shot  
uncertain by whom  
for their adherence  
to the Word of God  
and the covenanted  
work of reformation  
1685

Inscription on Semple and  
McClorgan's grave.



Second Covenanters' grave.



Inscriptions on second Covenanters' grave, old Dailly.

ALSO  
IN MEMORY OF  
GEORGE MARTIN, SCHOOLMASTER  
OLD DAILLY,  
WHO AFTER AN IMPRISONMENT OF  
FOUR YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS,  
SUFFERED IN THE GRASSMARKET, EDINBURGH  
ON 22<sup>ND</sup> FEB. 1684,  
FOR HIS ADHERENCE TO THE COVENANT,  
ALSO  
OF OTHER TWO COVENANTERS,  
(NAMES UNKNOWN)  
ONE OF WHOM, ACCORDING TO TRADITION,  
WAS SHOT DEAD, WHILE HERDING HIS COW  
AT KILOUP;  
AND THE OTHER WAS STRUCK DOWN ON HIS  
OWN HEARTH AT BLACK CLAUCHRIE, BARR,  
AND IS BURIED NEAR THIS SPOT.

Inscription on second Covenanters' grave.



Top of second Covenanters' grave, Old Dailly.

Reads:  
FOR CHRIST, HIS CROWN, AND COVENANT

## OLD DAILLY

It lies there on a bend of the road. The road will take you down the last few miles of the valley to **Girvan** and the sea. This time, however, we will stop by the Penwhapple Burn and visit the kirkyard of Old Dailly.

The church, a picturesque ruin, is distinguished by two belfries and has a history going back long before the Reformation. The lairds of Bargany, Killochan and Penkill are buried here and a poet-artist, William Bell Scott, is remembered among the old stones. There are two other stones that we want to see.

One stone stands near the gate. The original stone lies on the ground, badly worn, but beside it is a more recent monument that repeats the old words. It tells of two local men, **John Semple** and **Thomas McClorgan**, shot in 1685 for their covenanting loyalties.

**John Semple** lived at Eldington, a humble cottage on the slopes of Hadyard Hill. A married man with four children, he had never taken an active part in the fighting, but he had given shelter to fugitives and that was crime enough. One night a party of soldiers raided his house. Perhaps they hoped to find one of the 'hill folk', perhaps they wanted to teach Semple a lesson. He did not stay to ask. As they burst in through the door, he made for the window. They shot him dead.

Less is known of McClorgan. Who he was and who shot him remains uncertain, although the name McClorgan is found in later kirk session records.. What is known is the reason for his death and that is why he is remembered.

There was a schoolmaster in Old Dailly then, **George Martin**. He too, took his stand for the Covenants. Arrested, he was taken to **Edinburgh** and for four years and four months he was kept in prison, "sometimes in bolts and fetters, night and day, without fire and other necessities." Finally, sentence was passed.

On the night before his execution, Martin wrote his testimony, stating his beliefs clearly and boldly. Then, as day was breaking, he finished: "And now, being honoured to die for adhering to the truth, and to die this same day, being the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, 1684, I do hereby forgive all persons

of all wrongs done to me, and wish them forgiveness, as I desire to be forgiven of God. And now, I leave all my friends and Christian relations to the good guiding of Almighty God, and bid you all farewell in the Lord: farewell all worldly enjoyments and created comforts. And welcome Father, Son and Holy Ghost; into whose hands I commit my spirit.”

There is another stone in old Dailly. It is a monument erected principally in memory of **John Stevenson**, the son of the farmer at **Camregan**.

It also pays tribute to **George Martin** and records traditions of two other martyrs, one of whom was shot while herding his cows at Killoup and the other was “struck down on his own hearth stone” at **Black Clauchrie, Barr**.

As a young man of no fixed views, Stevenson attended a service in the hall of Killochan Castle. There he heard **Thomas Kennedy**, the ‘outed’ minister of Lasswade, preaching from Psalm 129. That was the start of a new life for **John Stevenson**.

Later, he heard John Cunningham speak in **Kirkmichael** Churchyard. Then in August 1678 he was present at a great conventicle at **Craigdow**, near **Maybole**. Some say that this was the biggest conventicle ever gathered. Stevenson heard **John Welsh** of **Irongray** and what he heard that day completed the work begun at Killochan. **John Stevenson** was Christ’s man now, and a Covenanter.

He was at **Bothwell Bridge** and only just escaped. Outside **Hamilton** his companion was shot. For the next nine years Stevenson was on the run. Often he hid in the fields near his father’s farm. One winter he spent in a haystack. Twice he was nearly captured. Through all the Killing Times he ran and hid, through it all he hoped and prayed. And he survived.

In later years Stevenson wrote in his autobiography, *A Rare Soul Strengthening and Comforting Cordial for Old and Young Christians*. There he recalls not only his adventures, but his inner struggles for faith. Still in print, Stevenson’s *Comforting Cordial* lets us see the mind and soul of the true Covenanter.<sup>1</sup>

## OLD DAILY MEMORIALS

The S.C.M.A. commissioned **Girvan** contractor, Jim Faulds, to carry out repairs and repainting of the Covenanter memorials in Old Dailly churchyard in South Ayrshire. The work has now been completed, and I am pleased to say is of a high standard.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Crichton, James. *The Carrick Covenanters*. Cumnock: Arthur Guthrie and Sons Ltd.

<sup>2</sup> *Scottish Covenanter Memorials Association Newsletter*, No. 89, September 2005, p 5

## OLDHAMSTOCKS

Near Cockburnspath, East Lothian

### Village

[67] NT 740 705



The village of Oldhamstocks - **Rev. Gabriel Semple** was arrested here in July 1681 and cruelly treated on his march to **Edinburgh** tolbooth.



Attribution: James Denham

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## OLD KIRKBRIDE (see KIRKBRIDE)

## OLD PENTLAND

Near Edinburgh, Mid Lothian

### Old graveyard

[66] NT 264 662



Graveyard at Old Pentland - **Beatrix Umpherston** is buried here, together with her husband, **John McNeil**, minister of Loanhead. She was one of 10 young girls who made their own pledge to the Lord in the **Children's Bond**.



Attribution:  
Mike J. Richardson





Information board at Old Pentland.



Attribution: Mike J. Richardson

## Old Pentland Kirkyard

### Battle of Rullion Green

On the 28th November 1666, nearly 1000 Covenanters and 2600 Royal troops under Lieutenant General Tam Dalziel met in battle in the hills before you.

Untrained and exhausted after marching from the west, the Covenanters were defeated and fled in panic. Perhaps 60 died and it is believed that many were buried in this graveyard in unmarked graves, whilst others were lost in the bogs of the Pentland Hills. The prisoners were shown no mercy and were either executed in Edinburgh or sold as slaves to the Colonies.

### A Covenanting Past

Covenanters sought to preserve a hard line Presbyterianism and opposed any Royal impositions into the affairs of the church.

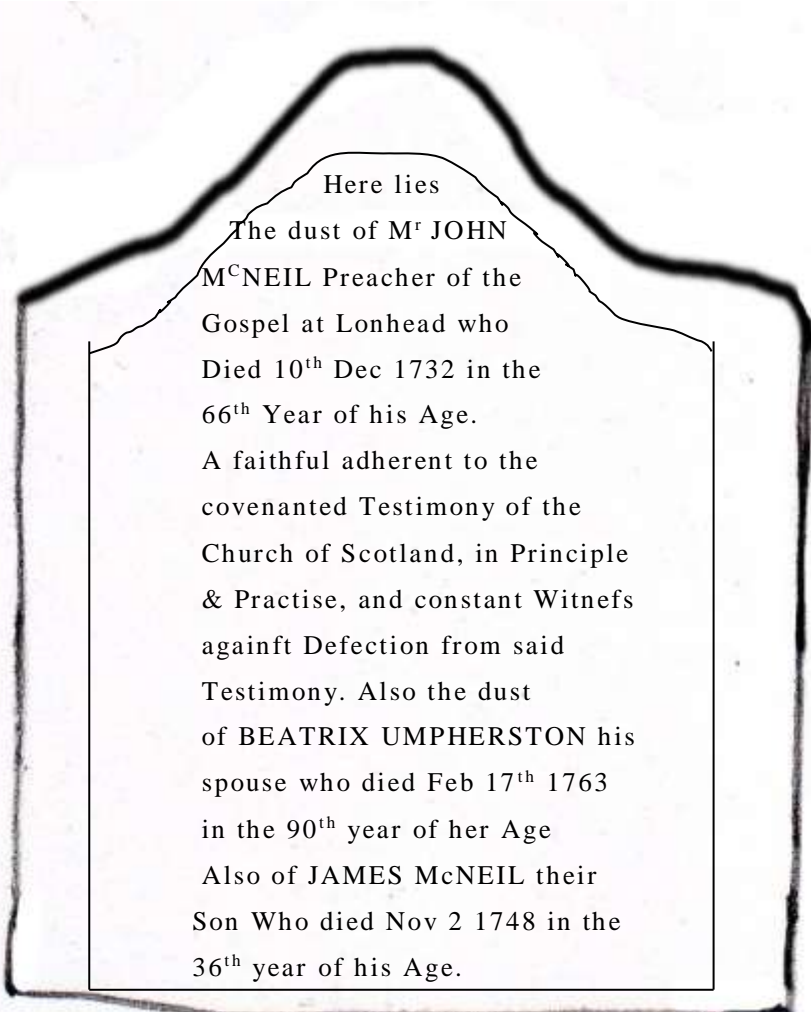
They put forward their ideas in The Solemn League and Covenant, but were oppressed by King Charles II, so their illegal meetings were held in remote locations. During the infamous "Killing Times" of 1684 - 1688 the persecution reached the peak with summary executions for all those that refused to renounce their faith.

Local heroine Helen Alexander was born near this church to a covenanting family and was married by the minister James Renwick, who was the last martyr to the Cause and only 26 when executed.

Helen's life was spent in the struggle to achieve freedom of worship. She was imprisoned by Sir Alexander Gibson but he mysteriously secured her freedom from the Edinburgh Tolbooth, despite her refusal to renounce her beliefs which would have cost her life.

Information on board at Old Pentland.

Grave of Beatrix Umpherstone to go here.



Here lies  
The dust of M<sup>r</sup> JOHN  
M<sup>c</sup>NEIL Preacher of the  
Gospel at Lonhead who  
Died 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 1732 in the  
66<sup>th</sup> Year of his Age.  
A faithful adherent to the  
covenanted Testimony of the  
Church of Scotland, in Principle  
& Practise, and constant Witnefs  
againft Defection from said  
Testimony. Also the dust  
of BEATRIX UMPHERSTON his  
spouse who died Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 1763  
in the 90<sup>th</sup> year of her Age  
Also of JAMES McNEIL their  
Son Who died Nov 2 1748 in the  
36<sup>th</sup> year of his Age.

Inscription on grave of **John McNeil** and  
**Beatrix Umpherston.**

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## **ORCHARDTON TOWER**

Near Auchencairn, Dumfries and Galloway  
**Tower (ruins)**

[84] NX 816 551



Orchardton Tower (15<sup>th</sup> century) – home during Covenanting times of **Robert Maxwell**, who may have been a Covenanter.



Attribution: Ed Iglehart

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## **ORROLAND**

Near Dundrennan, Dumfries and Galloway  
**House**

[84] NX 773 466

Orroland - home during Covenanting times of **John Cultar**, who was a member of the **Covenanters' War Committee**.

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# ORWELL

Near Milnathort, Perth and Kinross

[58] NO 146 038

## Old Graveyard

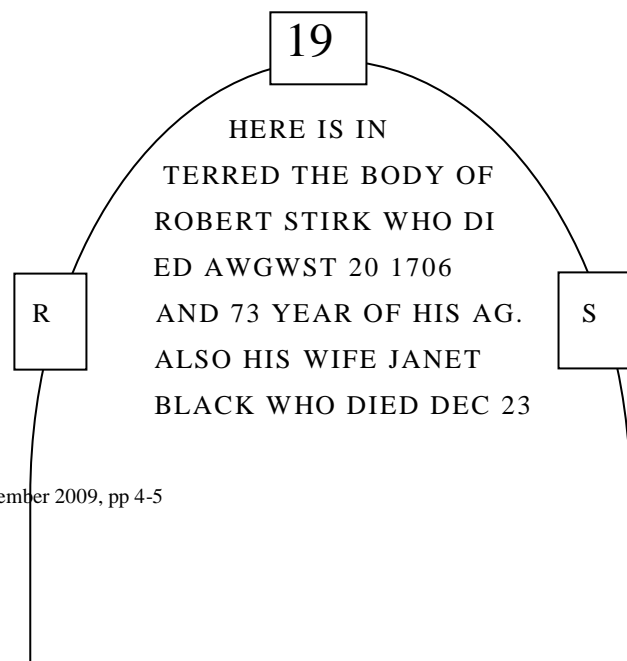
This stone . . . ‘can be found in the Old Orwell Kirkyard, which is located on the north side of Loch Leven, Kinross-shire, just east of Milnathort. . . this was a stone that does not appear to be listed in the usual Covenanter books, and yet it tells a story of persecution. There is a brief mention of a **Robert Stirk** of Mills of Forth in 1672 in **Wodrow’s** *Sufferings* but it may not be the same man. Again, on 5 May 1684 a Proclamation of **Charles II** lists Robert Stirk as a fugitive. The Kinross history website states that he was a merchant in Milnathort. . .

The stone has had the date 1719 carved into it at the top, though the 17 is lost, and the initials R.S. within squares to either side of the inscription.

It is very interesting to note that the style of lettering on the stone is very much in keeping with those erected by Robert Paterson, the ‘**Old Mortality**’ of Sir Walter Scott. The use of ligatures is very distinctive, especially in the word intercommuned, where the ‘INTE’ are joined together. <sup>1</sup>



Old  
Or  
wel  
l  
Gr  
ave  
yar  
d.



1718 IN THE 86 YEAR OF  
HER AGE  
THIS MAN WAS INTERCOMM  
WNED 10 YRS WNDER PREL  
ACY AND HE WITH HIS FA  
MILY WERE FORCED FR  
OM HIS DWELLING IN  
THIS PARISH JULY 1683  
AND DURST NOT RET  
WRN TIL THE REWO  
LUTION IN 1688

Covenanter, **Robert Stirk's** grave.

Inscription on Stirk's grave.

### **OTHER COVENANTERS FROM THE PARISH OF ORWELL**

- **Robert Kirk** survived the *Crown of London* shipwreck at **Deerness**, but was later transported to Jamaica.
- **James/Robert Sands** also survived the *Crown of London* shipwreck at **Deerness**, and was also later transported to Jamaica.

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**ORKNEY** (See **DEERNESS**)

### **OVER AIRIES**

Near Whauphill, Dumfries and Galloway  
**Farm**

[83] NX 397 483

Over Airies - Covenanter sympathiser, **John Forsyth** lived here. He offered hospitality to Covenanter **George Strachan** and was punished as a result.

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## **OVERLAW**

Near Dundrennan, Dumfries and Galloway  
**Farm**

[83/84] NX 727 475



Overlaw Farm - once home to Covenanter, **William McLellan**.



Attribution (left): Phil Catterall; (right): Colin Kinnear

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