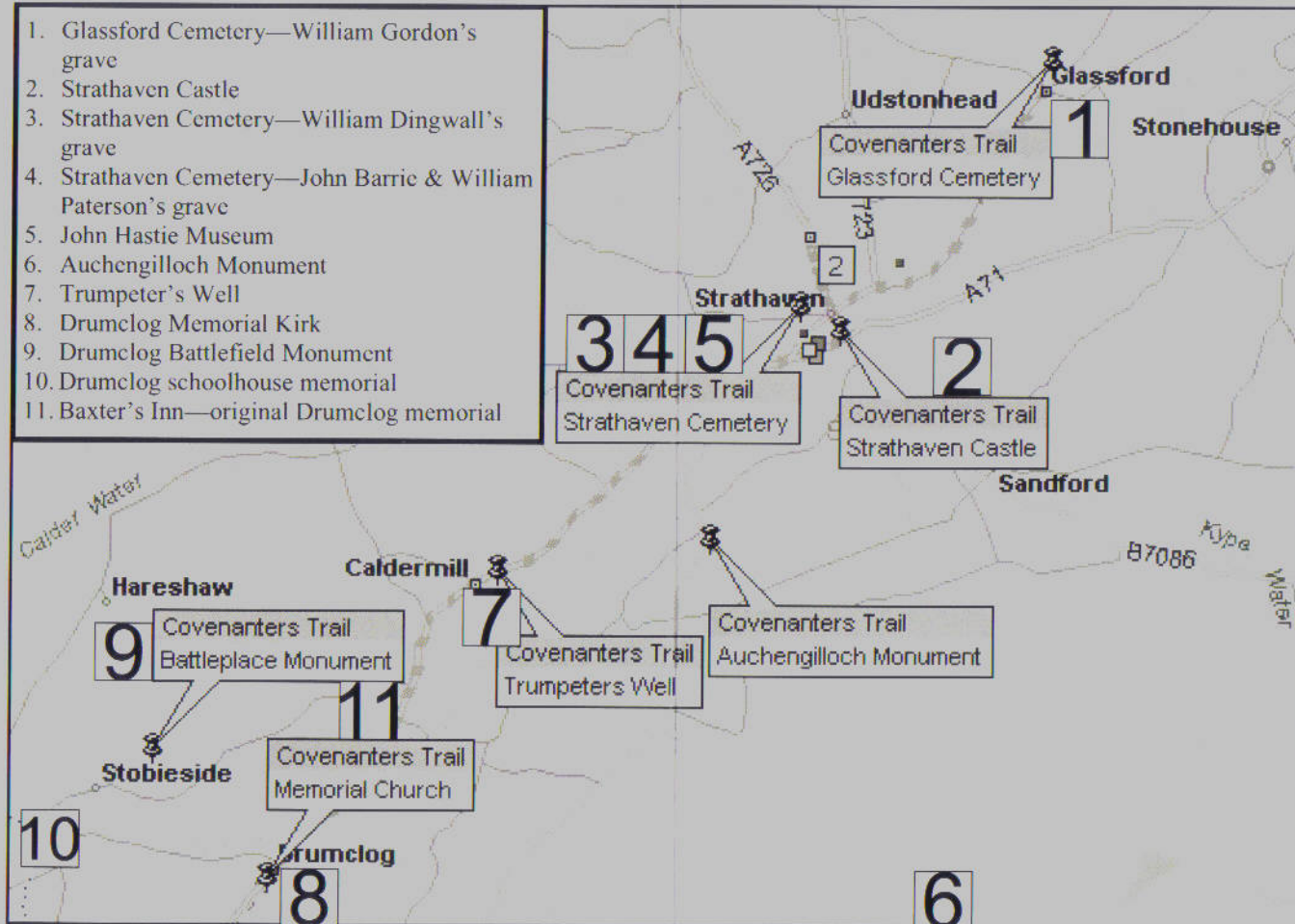


1. Glassford Cemetery—William Gordon's grave
2. Strathaven Castle
3. Strathaven Cemetery—William Dingwall's grave
4. Strathaven Cemetery—John Barrie & William Paterson's grave
5. John Hastie Museum
6. Auchengilloch Monument
7. Trumpeter's Well
8. Drumclog Memorial Kirk
9. Drumclog Battlefield Monument
10. Drumclog schoolhouse memorial
11. Baxter's Inn—original Drumclog memorial



Avondale Covenanters' Trail



Avondale Civic Society

Avondale Civic Society was founded in 1991 to stimulate public interest in the beauty, history and character of the area known as Avondale.
Tom Leith, *Brownside Farm, Caldermill, Strathaven, Lanarkshire, ML10 6QD.*

Scottish Covenanter Memorials Association

The Scottish Covenanter Memorials Association was established in 1966 with a view to preserving the many memorials which date from the "Killing Times" of 1638-88. For further information, contact the Secretary:

Dane Love Esq., Lochnoran House, Auchinleck, Ayrshire, KA18 3JW.

or visit our website: www.covenanter.org.uk



Avondale
Civic
Society

Who were the Covenanters?

Simply stated, the Covenanters were those people in Scotland who signed the National Covenant in 1638. They signed this Covenant to confirm their opposition to the interference by the Stuart kings in the affairs of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

The Stuart kings harboured the belief of the Divine Right of the Monarch. Not only did they believe that God wished them to be the infallible rulers of their kingdom – they also believed that they were the spiritual heads of the Church of Scotland. This latter belief could not be accepted by the



*Signing the National Covenant, Greyfriars, Edinburgh
1638*

Scots. No man, not even a king, could be spiritual head of their church. Only Jesus Christ could be spiritual head of a Christian church.

This was the nub of the entire Covenanting struggle. The Scots were, and would have been, loyal to the Stuart dynasty but for that one sticking point, and from 1638, when the Covenant was signed, until the Glorious Revolution – when Prince William of Orange made a bloodless invasion of Great Britain in 1688 – a great deal of suffering, torture, imprisonment, transportation and executions would ensue.

King Charles I had introduced the Book of Common Prayer to Scotland in 1637 to the fury and resentment of the populace. He declared that opposition to the new liturgy would be treason, and thus came about the Covenant.

There followed a period of very severe repression. Ministers with Covenanting sympathies were “outed” from their churches by the authorities, and had to leave their parishes. Many continued to preach at “conventicles” in the open air or in barns and houses. This became an offence punishable by death. Citizens who did not attend their local churches (which were now in the charge of Episcopalian “curates”) could be heavily fined, and such offenders were regarded as rebels, who could be questioned, even under torture. They could be asked to

take various oaths, which not only declared loyalty to the king, but also to accept his as head of the church. Failure to take such an oath could result in summary execution by the muskets of the dragoons, who were scouring the districts looking for rebels.

The persecutions became more frequent and cruel on the Restoration of Charles II in 1660. As time went on more and more ordinary folk became involved,



A Conventicle

and skirmishes and battles took place against Government troops. In 1678 the Government raised an army of 6,000 Highlanders, who had no love for the Presbyterian lowlanders. This army swept through the west and south of Scotland, looting and plundering. They remained for many years, quartering themselves on the already impoverished Covenanters.

Glassford Cemetery—William Gordon's gravestone (NS 731470)

In the old churchyard is a monument to William Gordon, laird of Earlstoun Castle in Gallo-way, who was making his way to Bothwell Bridge to join the Covenanters when a party of dragoons came upon him. He was shot near to Crookedstone farm, near Quarter (NS 724498), on 22 June 1679, aged 65. He had previously been fined and banished abroad for his Covenanting adherence. The monument was uninscribed until 1772.



(1680). He was one of many fugitives, driven from his home in Cambusnethan parish, and he was eventually caught at Charonheugh. He was taken to Strathaven Castle, where he was executed in 1685 by Captain Bell. John Barrie was captured by Peter Inglis in April 1685 and shot, despite having a "pass" which should have saved him.



John Hastie Museum (NS 699448)

Local history museum with features on the Covenanters and the Battle of Drumclog. On display is the Avondale Covenanter banner.

Drumclog Memorial Kirk (NS 641389)

Drumclog Kirk was erected in 1912. Inside can be seen a replica of the Drumclog Covenanters' banner, painted on the church wall.



Drumclog Battlefield Memorial (NS 626396)

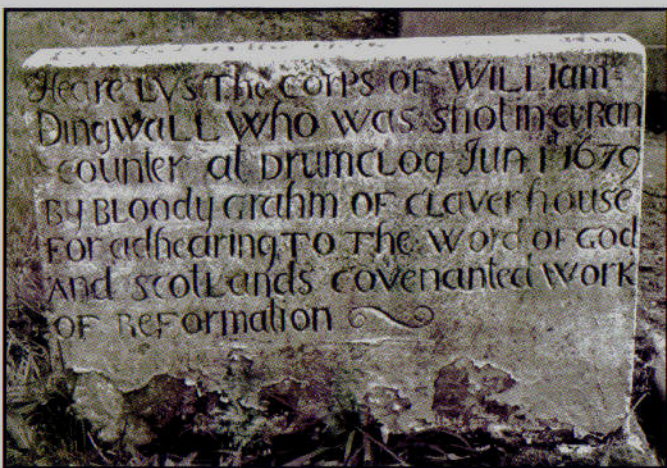
Tall obelisk marking the site of the Battle of Drumclog. The present memorial was erected in 1867.

On Sunday, 1st June 1679, John Graham of Claverhouse (later Viscount Dundee), an arch persecutor of the Covenanters, attacked a large Conventicle being held at Drumclog. Many of the worshippers had come armed, and they resisted to such an extent that they routed Claverhouse and his dragoons. The euphoria following this victory was soon dissipated, for the authorities, alarmed at this open resistance, brought in a large Royalist army, which met a largish Covenanter force at Bothwell, exactly three weeks later. Despite initial success, the Covenanters were routed and very many were killed on the field of battle and in the ensuing flight from it.



Strathaven Castle (NS704444)

Strathaven (or Avondale) Castle was erected around 1458 by Andrew Stewart, 1st Lord Avondale. During the years of the Covenant, the castle was garrisoned by various troops of soldiers, and the building was used as a prison for Covenanters. Two are thought to have been shot there.



Strathaven Cemetery—William Dingwall's Grave (NS705446)

Little is known about William Dingwall. He was born in Fife and took part in the Battle of Drumclog, where he was mortally wounded, dying soon after. His dying testimony was published. Grave marked by a small upright stone, erected 1732 and renewed in 1833.

Strathaven Cemetery—John Barrie & William Paterson's Grave (NS 705446)

Grave marked by a large flat chest stone, located on the face of the hill. Paterson was the son of Robert Paterson, killed at Battle of Airds Moss

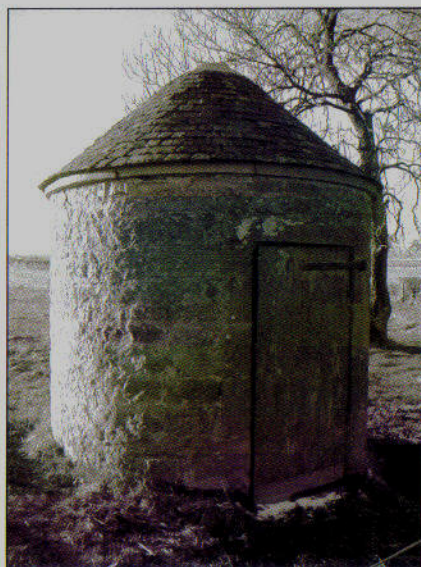
Auchengilloch Monument (NS713357)

Monument erected in 1830 to mark site of various Conventicles, or field meetings. Auchengilloch is a very remote site, hence its suitability for such meetings, with little chance of being disturbed. Access is difficult, but is possible from either Logan farm, Lesmahagow parish, Lambhill farm, south of Strathaven, or from Powbrone Burn, Glengavel. An Ordnance Survey map is advisable.



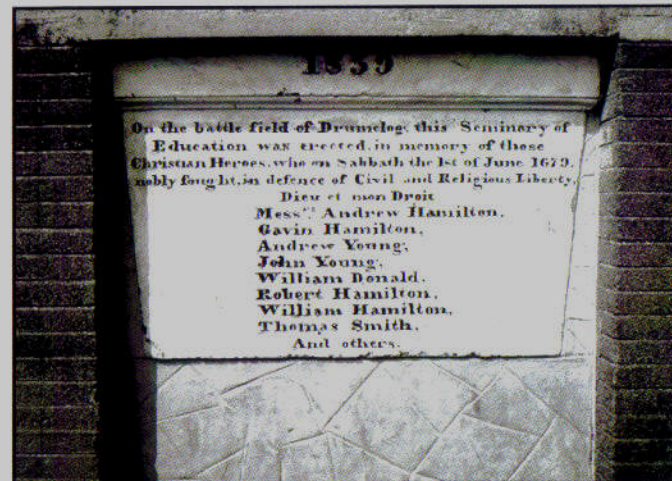
Trumpeter's Well (NS 660417)

A cylindrical well-head by the entrance to Hillhead farm is known as the Trumpeter's Well. Traditionally this was the spot where John Graham of Claverhouse took his Trumpeter's horse in order to save himself. The Trumpeter, a lad of 14, was subsequently killed and his body was supposedly thrown down the well.



Drumclog School Memorial (NS 625397)

Memorial tablet built into wall of former Drumclog School (now a private house), 1839.



Baxter's Country Inn (NS 652403) ^{Now demolished}

In car park of inn can be seen part of the original Drumclog Battlefield memorial. This was erected in 1839, but was hit by lightning a few years later and demolished. For many years the stone was built into a wall at Brownside Farm, Caldermill, (NS656421). In 1998 the Scottish



Covenanter Memorials Association had the stone relocated here, and an information plaque erected alongside. Inside the inn are various murals depicting the Battle of Drumclog and a Conventicle.