

## The Covenanters in Aberdeenshire

**230. Craibstone, Aberdeen.** Site of the Battle of Craibstone during the Montrose campaign. Situated midway between Bankhead and Blackburn on the A96 just south of the airport. A plaque on a wall at Craibstone, mentions the battle.

**231. Drum Castle Aberdeen.** The castle is situated on a minor road about 2 miles NW of Peterculter on the A93. (Peterculter is approximately 4 miles from Aberdeen city centre.) The mention of Drum Castle being the place Samuel Rutherford's exile is in that lovely book 'Grace in Winter' in which there is a picture of the castle. The book is a book of verse based on Rutherford's letters written by Faith Cook in which Jock Purves a late friend of mine wrote the Forward and corrected the original manuscripts. Mr Horne in his book, 'In Steps of the Covenanters', mentions that the house in which he stayed was swept away. (Possibly he had two venues in which he lived while at Aberdeen?)

**232. Dunnottar Kirkyard.** The Kirkyard is on a minor road off the A94 from Stonehaven and not too far distant from the castle. The martyrs Stone stands out to view by the side of the footpath.

**233. Dunnottar Castle.** The castle is well worth a visit and I should imagine a nice summer's evening with the evening sunlight on the west face could be the best time of day. It is by the shore on the A92 south of Stonehaven. About 122 covenanters, men and women were savagely treated in this castle in 1685. A few tried to escape but were punished even more when recaptured. Later they were put on shipboard for the Americas but all died at sea including most of the crew. A plaque has recently been installed at the castle explaining the happenings.

**234. Kineff Church.** Not a Covenanting issue but it was where the Royal regalia were hidden during Cromwell's protectorate before the restoration of Charles II. The church is on a minor road next to the coast off the A92 Inverbervie road, about seven or eight miles from Stonehaven.

**234a. Auchenblae Churchyard.** From Kineff retrace your steps to the A92 and turn south for about ½ a Mile where it connects with the B967, follow this road across for about 2 miles where it connects with the A94 near Fordoun which is just north of the junction. Right from here takes you to the village where you make a left turn on a minor road for Auchenblae and left from here takes you to a junction where you turn right on to a minor road which takes you direct to Auchenblae. In the churchyard there is a cylindrical column in memory of George Wishart who was once a teacher there.

David Roy



**Martyrs Grave  
Dunnottar Kirk**