

Covenanting in Lauderdale

151. Polwarth Kirk. Covenanter, Sir Patrick Hume took refuge in the vaults of this Kirk and his daughter Grissel, aged 12, took food to him. She later married George Bailie of Jerviswood, Lanark, who commissioned the design of Mellerstain House, Gordon.

152. Elliot's Well. James Renwick preached here. One mile east of Braidshawrig at the junction of paths from over the Lammermuirs. No monument.

153. Pilmuir Brae. First Conventicle in the Borders, held in a hollow next to the farm. A track 1½ north of Lauder leads to the farm, 1½ from the main road.

154. Lauder. One of the places where James Guthrie ministered. A memorial plate is affixed to the Minister's chair in the church. Guthrie ministered here 1642 – 1661.

155. Ledgerwood. Large flat stone in front of the church to a former Minister, William Calderwood who served there from 1655 – 1662. He was ejected and returned in 1689, where he continued until 1709.

156. Torwoodlea. Home of George Pringle of Torwoodlea who kept many covenanters during the persecution.

157. Blue Cairn. A Conventicle site. William Veitch a relative of Lauderdale was first Minister, 1676. There is a Covenanter's Well on the site.

158. Galashiels. Claverhouse surprised a Conventicle here in 1679.

159. Greenknowe Tower. Home of Walter Pringle of Greenknowe. A covenanter and relative of George Pringle of Torwoodlea.

160. Mellerstain House. Seat of the Baillie's. The lands bought here and at Jerviswood, Lanark by George Baillie, father of the martyr, Robert of Jerviswood in Lanark. Robert's son George married Grissel Hume of Polwarth who sustained her father in the vaults of the Kirk of Polwarth. Mellerstain is now owned by the Earl of Haddington and is in the care of the National Trust for Scotland. In the grounds to the north of the house is the burial place of the Baillie's, including Lady Grissel Baillie, a notable Christian woman.

161. Melrose Abbey. A stone in the grounds of the Abbey to covenanter, Nicol Cochrane, who suffered but survived.

162. Dryburgh Abbey. Grave of Ralph Erskine and John Erskine, the Earl of Mar. The stone is particularly nice in the wall of the ruin at the rear of the Abbey. Henry Erskine lived at Dryburgh House, one mile east of St. Boswells and on the opposite side of the river Tweed. He is buried at Chirnside (NS870560) where there is a monument to him in the churchyard.

163. Hawick. The Tower was the scene of a siege in 1679 under the command of Sir Alexander Holm who was hanged in Edinburgh, 1682. David Roy



**Baillie Mausoleum
Mellerstain**