

Martyrs of Muirkirk and District

- 13 **Auchengilloch.** Conventicle site where Richard Cameron preached his last sermon two days before he died at Ayrsmoss. At about three miles from Strathaven a cross roads is reached and a farm just ahead on the left of the road, turn left at the next exit just passed the farm. This road leads to Lambhill Farm. At the farm a gate into an enclosed area is provided for parking, (consult the farmer). Happily a forestry road has been laid in recent times, which takes you to the monument about 2 – 3 miles away. Follow the road till a spur is reach, follow the spur till it stops and the memorial is directly in front of you about half a mile distant. Trees now block the view.
- 14 **Priesthill.** Priesthill turn off is about 3 miles from Muirkirk and 10 from Strathaven. It is at a crossroads, Linburn farm is on the west and Priesthill farm is to the east. Follow the road to the farm and from there follow the track over the moor in a north easterly direction for about half a mile and the memorial will be seen in the hollow.
- 15 **Glenbuck.** Glenbuck used to be a mining village but nothing is left of it now. The church all be it in a ruined state was demolished in recent years. In the front wall of it there was a beautiful stone plaque to the Covenanters in the area, but is has since been removed to the grounds of the Parish Church in Muirkirk, (positioned to the east of the main gate.)
- 16 **Muirkirk.** An Obelisk in the cemetery on the Strathaven road commemorates the Martyrs around Muirkirk and a new pyramid shaped stone in a lay-by west of the village serves the same purpose with a notice board relating the Covenanting story. The martyrs are John Smith buried at the top end of the old kirkyard, (a simple upright rectangular stone). John Brown, martyr of Priesthill. William Adam, martyr buried beside the Proscribe Burn at Upper Wellwood. The Martyrs at Ayrsmoss, Richard and Michael Cameron, Capt.' John Fowler, John Gemmel, John Hamilton, James Gray, Robert Dick, Thomas Watson and Robert Paterson.
- 17 **Sorn.** Memorial on the rear wall of the Parish Church and the original grave stone inset at the bottom. To George Wood, the last of the martyrs, who was shot on the field at Tinkhorn Hill north east of the village.
- 18 **Upper Wellwood Farm.** This farm is beyond Middle Wellwood south of the A70 about a mile west of Muirkirk. The grave of the martyr, William Adam is on the West Side of the Proscribe Burn behind the farm. Recognised as a small grave stone within an iron railing.
- 19 **Ayrsmoss.** This memorial can be seen north of the A70 coming from Muirkirk, but not until the gate is passed, which leads to the memorial. About half a mile from the Sorn turn off watch for a Farm gate on the right tied by a blue rope. Take care, as you will be on an incline with a partial blind summit. The gate can be opened and a vehicle parked inside with plenty of turning space. Please close the gate after entry and after leaving, as there are sheep in this field. Cross the burn and follow the track westwards over the hill where the memorial will be seen.
- 20 **Cairtable Hill.** Conventicle site

David Roy

Muirkirk Covenanter Memorial



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