

Scots Worthies

Covenanters in History and Genealogy



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The Reformation: The Beginning



JOHN KNOX IN ST GILES, EDINBURGH.

1553- John Knox Flees to Geneva. Studies under John Calvin who preaches importance of governance by Presbytery.

1556- Returns to Scotland.

- 1560-Scotland established as independent protestant nation.
- 1562- "Second Confession."

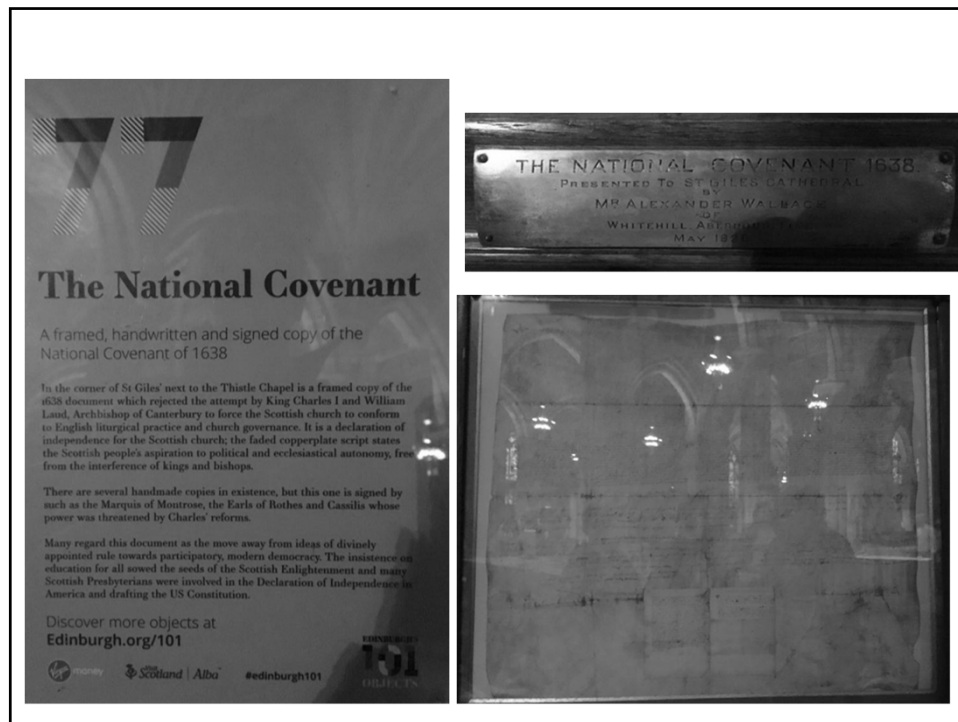
The Reformation: The Beginning

- 1567 Mary Queen of Scots is captured and forced to abdicate. Infant James becomes King. Mary is executed in 1587.
- 1603- James I becomes King of Scotland & England.
- 1610- James rules Episcopacy the religion of Scotland (loosely enforced).



The Reformation

- 1625- James dies and Charles I ascends to throne.
- 1637- Orders enforcement of new Episcopalian liturgy. Rioting erupts at St. Giles church.
- 1638- estimated 60,000 people come to Greyfriars to witness the signing of the National Covenant created in defense of 'true religion.'



The Reformation: Melt Down

- -1649 Charles I executed. Reign of Cromwell
- -1660/61 Charles II crowned, passes Rescissory Act negating Scottish laws/tenants since 1638.
- Covenanting ministers removed, forbidden from living/preaching 20 miles of former church-begin to worship in secret outdoor services.

Conventicles and Uprising

- Covenanters openly disobey the King's orders. Thousands attend outdoor conventicles.
- At first, captured Covenanters were fined or held in tolbooths. Later They're banished to the colonies.
- 1673- Rev. Alexander Peden and followers captured and held at Bass Rock.

Conventicles and Uprising

- 1679-1680 King outlaws Presbyterianism. Permits execution on-sight for "rebels". Issues bounties for capture of leaders.
- 1684-1689 labeled the "Killing Time" 1,000+ Covenanters are executed for refusing to take the Abjuration Oath.
- James Renwick was the final martyr executed February 18, 1688.

Clashes with the Crown

- 1666 Battle at Rullion Green
 - General James Wallace and Captains Arnot and Paton led a group of about 900 against General Thomas Dalziel's dragoons.
 - Nearly 100 men were captured and the leaders thrown in the Edinburgh tolbooth.
 - 22 men were executed.

Clashes with the Crown

- 1679 Battle at Drumclog
 - John Graham of Claverhouse tries to forcefully break up the conventicle.
 - Covenanters are armed and give Graham a surprise defeat.
 - Graham retreats, battle again at Bothwell.

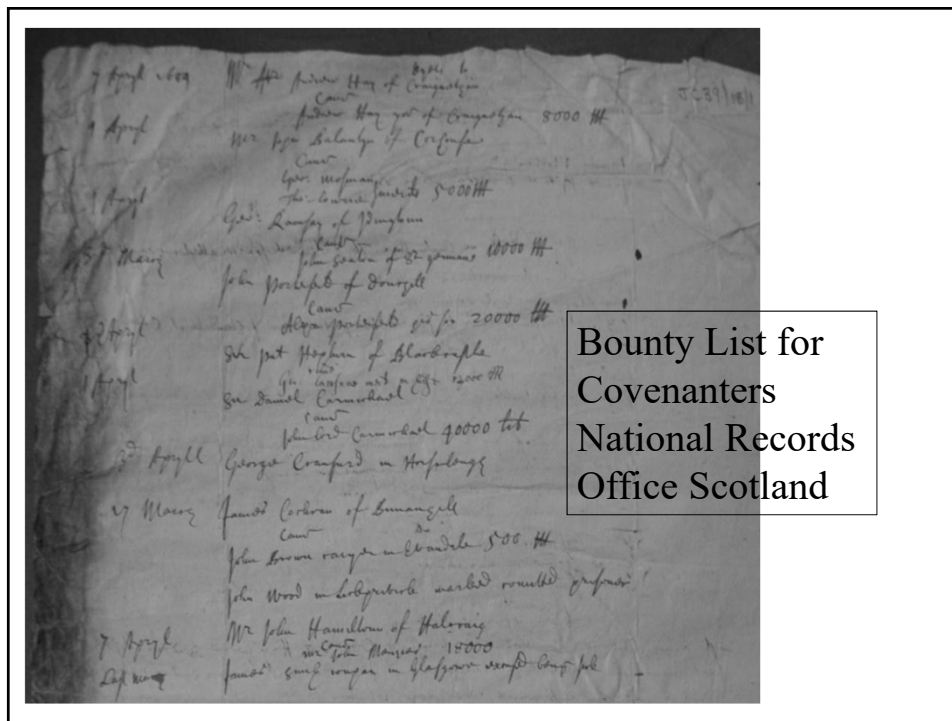
Clashes with the Crown

- 1679 three weeks later June 22, 1679 the Covenanters were soundly defeated at the Battle of Bothwell Brig.
- 6000 rebels –vs- 500 troops. Numbers of casualties very greatly from 7-700.
- Hundreds of Covenanters captured and imprisoned at Greyfriar’s Abbey, Edinburgh.



Clashes with the Crown

- Other skirmishes:
 - Mauchline Moor 1648
 - Airdmoss 1680 Richard Cameron and 8 other Cameronian Covenanters were killed after his Declaration of Sanquhar declaring war on the King.
 - Dunbar 1650 Covenanters under David Leslie, loyal to Charles II took on Cromwell's 'new' army. Over 800 men killed and 5,000 captured.



Bounty List for
Covenanters
National Records
Office Scotland

Imprisonment of Scots Worthies



- Greyfriars Abbey was prison for hundreds of Covenanters.
- Many were executed, like Captain John Paton, in Grassmarket Square.
- Bodies were washed at Magdalen Chapel then carried back up the hill to be buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard.

Greyfriars Covenanter Prison



Covenanter's Memorial Greyfriars



Imprisonment of Scots Worthies

- 1685- Dunnottar Castle prison for over 150 Covenanters.
- Deplorable conditions, many die of deprivation. William Keith 7th Earl of Marischal responsible.
- Black Book of Kincardineshire Lists those held at Dunnottar.

Dunnottar Castle



Henry and Frances

- 1685- George Scot of Pitlochy petitions the Crown to bring Covenanters to New Jersey.
- Scot is given 100 prisoners from Dunnottar Prison.
- Others volunteer to leave Scotland for a total of just under 200 souls onboard.
- Journey disastrous estimated 35-70 passengers die.



Captain John Paton

- He farmed at Meadowhead Farm in Ayrshire near Fenwick and was an active member of the Fenwick Church.
- Captain Paton was a trained soldier under General Dalziel. Fought on the continent.
- He fought at Rullion Green in Pentland Hills 1666 and Drumclog & Bothwell Brig 1679.

Captain John Paton

- Captain Paton's legacy lives on at the Lochgoin Covenanter Museum near Fenwick where his sword is currently on view.
- Fenwick Church has on display the bible Paton handed to his wife from the scaffold the day of his execution at Grassmarket.
- Numerous monuments have been erected in his honor around Ayrshire.

National Records Office

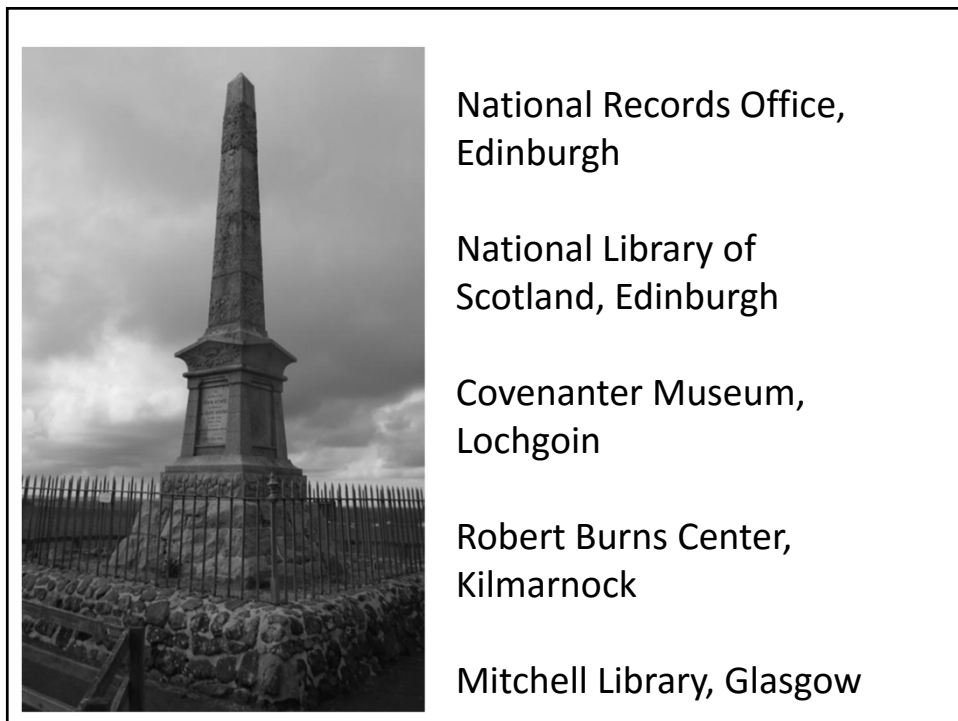
- While the vast majority of records are not available online, the National Archives website has thorough guides plus accurate online search capabilities.
 - <http://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue/welcome.aspx>
 - www.nas.gov.uk/doingResearch/remotely.asp
 - www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/high-court-criminal-trials

National Records Office

- www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/crime-and-criminals
- www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides
- Most records for Covenanters & other groups to bear arms against the British Government are kept at the National Archives in London
- Privy Council records
www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/privy-council-records

National Museum of Scotland





National Records Office,
Edinburgh

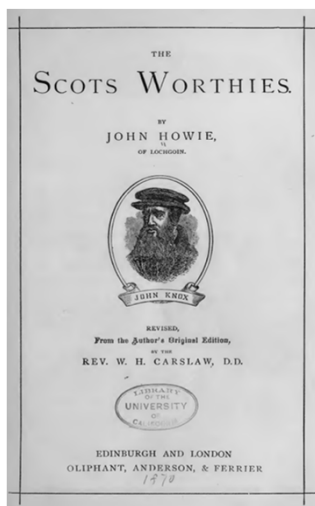
National Library of
Scotland, Edinburgh

Covenanter Museum,
Lochgoin

Robert Burns Center,
Kilmarnock

Mitchell Library, Glasgow

Book Resources



- A bibliography of Scottish Covenanter histories is available on my website: www.tamarackgenealogy.com
- Internet Archives: www.archive.org
- Hathi Trust: www.hathitrust.com

Web Resources

- Scottish Covenanter Memorials Association
- www.covenanter.org.uk
- Scottish Covenanters Index:
- <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=7021>
- Find My Past Covenanter Index: <http://bit.ly/2yRXMfy>
- Jardine's Book of Martyrs: <https://drmarkjardine.wordpress.com>

Questions???

