



Reverse side of the newer of the memorial stones in memory of five Covenanters.

house in Edinburgh, by reason of his sickness, upon caution given for him." A bond of £274 Sterling was pledged to ensure that he would return one month later. Once the four weeks had passed, his health had still not improved, and so his time out was extended by a fortnight.

However, he died before this period came to an end. In his Will he left money "for such pious and charitable uses as [Sir Hew Campbell of Cessnock] see fit."

***Reprinted from an article in the
Scottish Covenanter Memorials Association Newsletter
Written by Dane Love***

He was held in prison for nearly four months and once he was released he was forbidden to live within his own parish, or even within the bounds of the cities of Glasgow or Edinburgh.

Undaunted, he continued to preach, and in 1669 he was summoned to Ayr by Major Cockburn and charged with preaching and baptising. He was eventually sent to prison in Edinburgh Tolbooth, where he lay from 8 July to December 1673. He had been accused of not praying for the King on Restoration Day, 29 May.

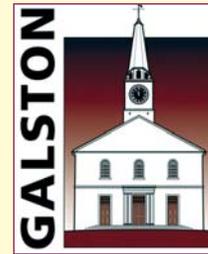
It was declared that "Mr Blair, having publicly disowned the King and council's power and authority to give him instructions, the lords ordain him immediately to be carried to the Tolbooth of Edinburgh, there to remain till further orders."

For the next six months he suffered terribly in Edinburgh's prison. He became so ill that on 4 December 1673 he was "allowed by the lords to go to a



GALSTON PARISH Church of Scotland (Charity No. SC010370)
Information Leaflet : *Our Heritage* GALSTON'S COVENANTERS
WEBSITE: galstonkirk.com HISTORIES: www.kirknews.org.uk

OUR HERITAGE



PARISH CHURCH
of Scotland
Charity No. 010370

Galston's Covenanters

*No trial for
Andrew Richmond*



Galston's Covenanters

The two upright stones in Galston Kirkyard to the local Covenanters were the subject of renovation work by the Scottish Covenanter Memorials Association in 2016, after the church authorities made contact to see if something could be done about them.

Accordingly, the SCMA undertook to have both stones removed, new foundations were put in place by East Ayrshire Council, and the stones were re-sited on them. At the same time, the opportunity was taken to have the stones removed to the monumental sculptor's workshops and they were cleaned. The modern stone was also re-lettered at the same time.

The older of the two stones is noted for its scene carved on the stone depicting Andrew Richmond pointing to the Bible whilst a dragoon under the command of John Graham of Claverhouse takes aim with his gun. This stone was erected in 1823, no doubt to replace an even older memorial and sits where it has always sat, now forming part of 'Covenanters Corner' in the Kirkyard. The stone reads: "Here lies Andrew Richmond who was killed by bloody Graham of Claverhouse, June 1679, for his adherence to the Word of God and Scotland's Covenanted work of Reformation."

*When bloody tyrants here did rage
Over the Lord's own heritage,
To persecute His noble cause
By mischief framed into laws,
'Cause I the Gospel did defend,
By martyrdom my life did end.*

Graham of Claverhouse was one of the most vicious of the military commanders who hunted down the Covenanters, killing and torturing indiscriminately. Andrew Richmond was shot dead where he kneeled. The story of Andrew Richmond is one which is bare of much detail. We know that his father was a farmer, the tenant of Parkieston Farm. In June 1679 Richmond was apprehended by John Graham of Claverhouse and his dragoons. He was not allowed any form of trial, and the soldiers under Clavers had him shot dead.

The other modern stone replaced an older stone which was erected in memory of Galston martyrs and survivors who are buried elsewhere. The original stone was erected in 1823 but being of sandstone it had eroded and eventually became illegible.

Indeed, writing in 1909 in the History of Galston Parish Church the writer notes that "this stone is a coarse red sandstone, is beginning to splinter and is ready to come off in flakes, so that parts of the inscription will soon be obliterated." It lies on the ground adjacent to the present memorial which was erected in 1993. It includes a long inscription which Thomson in Martyr Graves of Scotland described



A Conventicle in the Kirkyard was held on Sunday 22 August 1993 marking the Covenanters' Corner in Galston Kirkyard.

as "a piece of wordy bombast, in marked contrast with the simple yet effective lines in which the generation after the Revolution commemorated the deeds of their fathers."

The other side of the modern stone commemorates John Richmond, younger, of Knowe, who was executed at Glasgow Cross on 19 March 1684 and was subsequently buried in the Cathedral burial ground. Also, James Smith, of East



The original stone to five covenanters when it stood at the front of the church.

Threepwood, shot at the side of Burn Anne by Captain Inglis. The stone states that he was buried by the side of the stream where he was martyred. Many will know of the confusion with this information and the stone in Mauchline Kirkyard which commemorates James Smith, buried there, after dying of wounds in Mauchline prison. Whether or not there were two James Smiths has never been satisfactorily proven.

Next to be listed are James Young and George Campbell, both of whom were banished in 1679. They were among the hundreds of Covenanters who were on board the Crown of London which was wrecked at Mull Head of Deerness on Orkney.

Last on the list is Rev. Alexander Blair, the parish minister. A graduate of St. Andrews in 1638, he became minister at Galston in 1643. He was involved in the Battle of Mauchline Muir in 1648. He was removed from his charge in 1662 at the outing of the ministers.