

# Against the Tide: The Valor of Margaret Wilson

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Source

Symson, Rev. Andrew. *A Large Description of Galloway*. Edinburgh: W. and C. Tait, 1823.  
(The book was written in 1684, but remained unpublished until much later.)

### Most Helpful Sources

Anderson, James. *The Ladies of the Covenant: Memoirs of Distinguished Scottish Female Characters Embracing the Period of the Covenant and the Persecution*. Clinton Hall, NY: Redfield, 1851.

Contains a lengthy introduction concerning the patriotic interest women showed during this time period. The two Margarets are among the twenty-five women profiled with the inclusion of some of the folklore that has sprung up concerning them. The Appendix includes an explanation for the "Sense in which the Covenanters refused to say 'God save the King.'"

Anderson, William. *The Voice of Renwick: The Last of the Scottish Martyrs*. A sermon preached on the bicentenary of his birth. London, 1862.

Besides the historical information this treatise has some comments about his personal appearance. (Photocopy reprint, Still Waters Revival Books. Publisher is illegible.)

Dryerre, J. Meldrum. *Heroes and Heroines of the Scottish Covenanters*. London: S. W. Partridge, 1896.

Howie, John. *The Scots Worthies*. Revised from the author's original edition by W. H. Carlaw. Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, 1870. Original imprint was by W. R. M'Phun, 1835. Very detailed biography of James Renwick.

Johnston, Rev. John C. *Treasury of the Scottish Covenant*. Edinburgh: Andrew Elliot, 1887. Miscellanea section contains five pages summarizing the documentary evidence of the martyrdoms as well as a section "The Women of the Covenant" and one on "The Wigtown Martyrs,"

Mackenzie, William. *The History of Galloway – From the Earliest Period to the Present Time*. 2v (3pts). Illus. with maps. Kircudbright: John Nicholson, 1841.

Nimmo, James. *Narrative of Mr. James Nimmo*. Written to help him remember the Lord's way of dealing with and His and kindness towards him. 1654-1709. Edited from the original manuscript with introduction and noted by W. G. Scott-Moncrieff. Edinburgh: University Press, 1889.

Lengthy introduction was informative. The peculiar and very erratic spelling and the abundance of contractions, characteristic of the seventeenth century, make this difficult reading. I attempted to read through page 75 and the death of Charles II. It was

a familiar tale of the persecution of the devout Covenanters.

Pollok, Robert. *The Persecuted Family: A Narrative of the Sufferings of the Presbyterians in the Reign of Charles II.* 1<sup>st</sup> American from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edinburgh ed. Boston: Crocker & Brewster, 1829.

Reid, R. C., ed. *Wigtownshire Charters.* Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh, 1960.  
“Burg of Wigtown” - pp. 115-135. Entry No. 108 contains an explanation of the annual fair and the market day regulations with detailed lists of what could be bought or sold.

Renwick, James. *The Testimony of Some Persecuted Presbyterian Ministers of the Gospel unto the Covenanted Reformation of the Church of Scotland.* The message was given to the ministers at Edinburgh by James Renwick, 17<sup>th</sup> January 1688. Renwick’s plea for keeping the National Covenant and preaching the Gospel in the field meetings shows him to be highly educated and able to synthesize his knowledge of scripture and the current squabble with King Charles over who is head of the kirk..

Simpson, Rev. Robert, of Sanquhar. *Traditions of the Covenanters: or, Gleanings among the Mountains.* Edinburgh: Gall and Inglis, 1867. (Earliest edition was published in 1841.) Simpson lived 1795-1867. Excellent background for understanding the vehemence with which the Covenanters were persecuted as shown by the deaths of young and old who were willing to die for what they believed was right in God’s eyes. Helpful illustrations.

Wodrow, Robert. *The History of the Suffering of the Church of Scotland: From the Restoration to the Revolution.* Vol .IV. Glasgow: Blackie, Fullarton & Company, 1830.  
Background on Wilson family, good summary of Margaret’s persecution during “the killing years” and explanation of how her parents suffered because of her actions.

Wylie, James A. *Story of the Covenant and the Services of the Covenanters.* (*Covenanter History Series*) Edinburgh: Blue Banner Productions, 1998. Originally published by James Gemmell, Edinburgh, 1880.  
Excellent description of conventicle/communion service.

Wylie, James A., ed. *The Scots Worthies: Their Lives and Testimonies.* Including many additional notes, and lives of eminent worthies not contained in the original collection. London: William Mackenzie, Ludgate Hill, n.d.  
Contains a copy of the reprieve for the two Margarets. Dated Edinburgh, April 30, 1685.

### **Other Helpful Sources**

Barnett, T. Ratcliffe. *The Story of the Covenant: Fifty Years of Fighting Faith.* London: Oliver and Boyd, 1928.  
Easy reading. One of the simplest renditions of the Covenanting struggle.

Best, Nicholas. *The Kings and Queens of Scotland.* Portraits from the National Galleries of

- Scotland. London: Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1999.  
Brief histories and drawings of the kings and queens.
- Brewster, Donna. *Second Daughter*. Dumfries: T. C. Farries, 1989.  
Novel of the several generations of one Covenanting family during the time of Margaret Wilson. Good picture of daily living.
- Devine, T. M. *The Transformation of Rural Scotland: Social Change and the Agrarian Economy, 1660-1815*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1994. Pp. 1-18.  
Includes a clear presentation of Lowland farming by tenant farmers like the Wilsons.
- Dick, Rev. C. H. *Highways and Byways in Galloway and Carrick*. NY: Macmillan, 1916.  
Intriguing geographic details of the area and lots of sketches.
- Dictionary of Scottish Church History & Theology*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1993.  
Brief summary of the Wigtown martyrs and attacks against the veracity of the account.
- Dodgshon, R. A. *Land and Society in Early Scotland*. Oxford, England: Clarendon Press, 1981.
- Dunbar, John Telfer. *The Costume of Scotland*. London: B. T. Batsford, 1981.
- Fraser, Antonia. *Mary Queen of Scots*. New York: Delacorte, 1993. Originally published in England in 1969.  
Good for background information. Here's where I learned a good day's ride was thirty to forty miles, but it was considered possible to ride more than fifty miles in an emergency.
- Hewison, James King. *The Covenanters. A History of the Church in Scotland from the Reformation to the Revolution*. 2 vol. Glasgow: John Smith and Son, 1908.  
Volume II covers the time frame from 1650-1690. Big book with fine print, but easy-to-follow because topics are written in the wide margins.
- Howie, John. *Lives of the Scottish Covenanters*. Greenville, S.C.: A Press, 1981.  
My chief source for information on James Renwick.
- Lippincott, Peter, ed. *Psalm Singing of the Covenanters*. City, publisher and date aren't listed. It appears to have been published in 1977 by the Associate Presbyterian Church.  
Eighteen essays on Covenanter history, old and recent.
- Livingstone, Sheila. *Scottish Customs*. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1996.  
A fun book—about family life and death, luck, work, water, plants and animals.
- Love, Dane. *Scottish Covenanter Stories: Tales from the Killing Times*. Glasgow: Neil Wilson Publishing, 2000.  
Fifty readable stories beginning with the early martyrs and a helpful bibliography.

- Macpherson, Hector. *The Covenanters under Persecution: A Study of Their Religious and Ethical Thought*. Edinburgh: W. F. Henderson, 1923.  
Detailed presentation of the repressive measures enacted against the Covenanters.
- Macpherson, Hector. *The Wigtown Martyrs*. Edinburgh: Scottish Reformation Society, 1985.  
Special commemorative booklet for the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the martyrdom.
- Maxell, Stuart and Robin Hutchinson. *Scottish Costume. 1550-1850*. London: Adam & Charles Black, 1958. Pp. 54-78.
- McFeeters, J. C. *Sketchers of the Covenanters*. Philadelphia: Second Church of the Covenanters, 1913.  
Has general information that is intriguing. I got a sense of the weather and climate and a look into the spiritual feelings of the covenanters, but there are inaccuracies in the text and the dramatic style makes the writing suspect.
- Mitchison, Rosalind and Leah Leneman. *Sexuality and Social Control. Scotland 1660-1780*. Oxford, UK: Basil Blackwell, 1989.  
Excellent information on marriage customs and women's work.
- Morrill, John, ed. *The Scottish National Covenant in Its British Context, 1638-5*. Edinburgh: University Press, 1990.
- Morton, Alex S. *Galloway and the Covenanters or The Struggle for Religious Liberty in the South-West of Scotland*. Paisley: Alexander Gardner, 1914.  
Good general description of the struggles and details on the Wilson family.
- Orr, Brian J. *As God is my witness: The Presbyterian Kirk, the Covenanters & the Ulster Scots*. Heritage Books, 2002.  
Quite readable account of the major problems, battles and persecuted Covenanters.
- Prebble, John. *The Lion in the North: A Personal View of Scotland's History*. New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1971.  
Detailed look at the life of King Charles II and his mandates.
- Reid, R. C. ed. *Wigtownshire Charters*. Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh, 1960.  
Information on fairs and market days.
- Purves, Jock. *Fair Sunshine*. Stirling, Scotland: Stirling Tract Enterprise, 1957.  
A classic in covenanting history. Biographies of a dozen Covenanters put to death in 17<sup>th</sup> century Scotland. The stories depict the tremendous upheavals and suffering experienced from 1660-1688 and the martyrs' unflinching trust in Christ during the persecution.
- Purves, Jock: *Sweet Believing: Character Studies of the Scottish Covenanters*. Stirling, Scotland: Stirling Tract Enterprise, 1948. Includes the two Margarets.

- Sanderson, Margaret H. B. *A Kindly Place? Living in Sixteenth-century Scotland*. East Linton: Tuckwell Press, 2002.  
Not so helpful to my understanding of the common people.
- Smout, T. C. *A History of the Scottish People. 1560-1830*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1969.
- Walker, Colin S. K. *Scottish Proverbs*. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1996.
- Whitley, Elizabeth. *The Two Kingdoms*. Edinburgh: The Scottish Reformation Society, 1977.  
Detailed history from 1572-1712.
- Whyte, Ian. *Agriculture and Society in Seventeenth-Century Scotland*. Edinburgh: John Donald Publishers, 1979.
- Whyte, Ian. "Rural Housing in Lowland Scotland in the Seventeenth Century" in *School of Scottish Studies*. University of Edinburgh: Edinburgh, 1975. Vol. xix, pages 55-68.