TWEED VALLEY SESSION 6 – Cavaliers and Covenanters

The Marches

MAP – THE BORDER MARCHES

From the later Middle Ages until the Union of the Crowns in 1603, the borderlands of England and Scotland were divided into administrative areas called "Marches", three on each side of the Border: the West, Middle and East Marches.

Each March was governed by a Warden, an officer appointed by his respective monarch with the remit to maintain law and order through a blend of policing, diplomacy and military leadership.

On the Scottish side, the Wardens were heads of Border families – local warlords over whom the King in Edinburgh had little practical control. The office was effectively an hereditary right, held by Maxwells or Johnstons in the West March, Scotts or Kerrs in the Middle March and the Humes in the East March.

The first Lord Warden of the English Marches was created by Edward I at the end of the 13th century. Tudor monarchs recognised the dangers in appointing Wardens' posts to members of notable English Border families, who might develop power-bases that would compete with royal power in the north. It became the practice, particularly during the reign of Elizabeth I, to appoint a person of note from outside the Border region to the position of March Warden. Unlike the situation in Scotland this kept control of Border affairs in the hands of the sovereign, but the local gentry often resented the appointment of men who had little knowledge of the Border country, its people and their way of life.

The valleys of the Tweed and its tributaries were a largely lawless area of mixed allegiances where families switched their support to the side which most suited their interests at that time.

BORDER TRYST IMAGE

Throughout this period, the Border area was governed by its own system of March Law that was intended to regulate the return of fugitives, recovery of debts and the resolving of cross-Border disputes. For example if an Englishman was robbed by a Scot, he could complain to his Warden, who passed the case to his opposite number on the Scottish side and it would be his responsibility to apprehend the villains and bring them to justice in the presence of the March Warden within whose jurisdiction the crimes had been committed.

These matters were dealt with at the Warden's Truce Days, or Trysts that were held at agreed times and places on the Border. Tryst sites on the Tweed included the fords at Norham, Wark and Carham and at the Redden Burn.

Anyone travelling to or from these truces, or trysts was supposed to be safe from attack or arrest until sunrise the following morning.

The truces usually passed without serious incident, but some resulted in bloodshed and the last major Border fray took place at a Warden's tryst held near Carter Bar in 1575. The skirmish which came to be known as the "Raid of the Redeswire" began when Sir John Forster, the Warden of the English Middle March, complained that the Scots had failed to hand over an English thief called Feinstein (who was actually a Robson). An initial exchange of insults developed into a full-scale battle in which a number of men from both sides were killed and Forster was taken prisoner and held for ransom.

Another element of March Law was the "Hot Trod", which gave the right to pursue an offender across the Border within six days of the taking of any cattle. **"without let or hindrance from any man and recover their gear if so be they could lay their hands on it".** . However, a fugitive could gain sanctuary and avoid being brought back to face justice by ringing the bell of the first church he came to across the Border,

HOT TROD IMAGE

The formalities of "hot trod" required the pursuers to **"follow their lawful trod with hue and cry, with horn and hound"** and to carry a burning peat on a lance-point to show the purpose of their crossing the Border.

Rebellion of the Northern Earls

Religious conflict caused devastation in the region during the 16th and 17th centuries.

In 1569, the Catholic Earls of Northumberland and Westmorland rose against Queen Elizabeth I, in support of Mary Queen of Scots's claim to the throne of England.

They rose southwards with a small army of tenants and retainers in an attempt to rescue Mary from prison. However, the Rebellion was short-lived and the rebel earls were forced to take shelter with their allies, the Armstongs, Kerrs and Scotts, across the Border in the wilds of Liddesdale and Teviotdale.

The Earl of Northumberland was betrayed and handed over to Lord Hunsdon, the Governor of Berwick, and later executed.

Westmorland escaped and together with Leonard Dacre, a former deputy warden of the English West March, Alexander Hume, Thomas Kerr of Ferniehurst, Walter Scott of Buccleugh and other supporters of Queen Mary, continued to harry the English Marches from their strongholds in Liddesdale and Teviotdale.

In the spring of 1570, the English struck back, destroying some 50 castles and towers, and burning Hawick and more than thirty other townships and villages along the Border.

Effects on the Local Population

During the last thirty years of the 16th century, the situation in the Tweed Valley was particularly lawless.

Many tenants on estates in the English Marches held their land in return for providing military service in time of threat – a system known as "Border tenure".

Regular musters were held to assess the number of fighting men and their state of readiness.

John Selby, the Deputy Warden of the English East March, submitted his report on his muster held on 10th March 1580 and the entries illustrate how the frequent raiding and the chaotic conditions in the region affected the military effectiveness of the men he could put into the field:

NEXT PAGE

East March Muster, 1580

LEARMOUTH   **A village of Sir Thomas Grey**
22 tenants, 15 horsed and furnished, saith their decay was by the late Earl of Westmorland, the Lairds of Ferniehurst and Buccleuch, etc., who burned and spoiled their town in the late rebellion.

MINDRUM   **A village of Sir Thomas Grey**
11 tenants, 5 only horsed and furnished. Cause of decay as above.

PRESSEN   **A village of Sir Thomas Grey**
4 tenants, 2 horsed and furnished. Decay due to the said Earl and English and Scottish rebels.

MONEYLAWES   **A village of John Selby**
6 tenants, all furnished. Were spoiled by the said Earl, Buccleuch, etc. And in October last they were robbed by the Scots of West Teviotdale, but look for redress at the first day of truce.

COUPLAND   **A village of Sir Thomas Grey**
8 tenants, 4 horsed. Decay by Buccleuch and Ferniehurst and some English rebels.

HOWTEL   **A village of her Majesty's, and partly Sir John Forster and John Burrell**
6 tenants, 2 of her Majesty's, horsed. Most of the ground turned to pasture.

KIRKNEWTON and WEST NEWTON   **2 villages of William Strother**
18 tenants, 11 horsed. The decay caused by Buccleuch and others, as above.

AKELD   **A village of Sir Thomas Grey and William Wallis**
16 tenants, 7 horsed. Decay caused as above.

WOOLER   **A town of Sir Thomas Grey and other gentlemen his freeholders**
18 tenants, 3 furnished. Buccleuch, his servants and English rebels caused their decay.

EARLE   **A village of Michael Hebborne and Gilbert Scott**
8 tenants, only 1 horsed. No cause given.

SOUTH MIDDLETON - A village of Sir Thomas Grey
14 tenants, 8 horsed   Liddesdale and some English rebels got all their horses.

CHATTOUN   **A village of the Earl of Northumberland**
24 tenants, 13 horsed.   Have had great losses by death of cattle and the like, and 2 say the stealth of their horses and cattle by the Scots is their cause.

The above towns and villages are within Glendale Ward, on the West side of the Till, and are the uttermost of her Majesty's frontiers there.

**Total for the East March   117 villages
1,148 tenants   323 horsed and furnished   825 unfurnished**

The Border Reivers

This was the heyday of the "reivers", men who kept their families by robbing their neighbours on either side of the Border. The word "reive" means "to steal". Just as the word ""Viking", meaning "raider" became the generic word for the Norsemen, the members of the riding surnames on either side of the Anglo-Scottish Border became known as "reivers".

Armed with a "steel bonnet", padded "jack", lance and sword, they were recognised as the best light cavalry in Europe.

IMAGES – MORION HELMET, JACK AND BORDER REIVER (BURGONET HELMET)

Reiving became a large-scale business and few in the region were able to sleep securely in their beds as a result.

As well as the castles and towers of the lords and heads of surnames, ordinary families' farmhouses were fortified against marauders. They were known as "bastles".

PHOTO – BLACK MIDDENS BASTLE

Even the property of Sir John Forster, the Warden of the Middle March himself, was not safe from attack.

EXAMPLES OF SPOILS, 1587 (Next Page)

NOTE OF SPOILS IN THE ENGLISH MIDDLE MARCH

From Sir Cuthbert Collingwood to Sir Francis Walsingham - 23rd August 1587

On 8th July	**4 men of East Teviotdale took out of Alnwick park, within half a mile of Sir John Forster's house, 4 horses.**
On 9th July	**12 of the same took from Ditchburn, 40 beasts.**
On 13th July	**30 of the same, took at East Lilburne and Wooperton, hurting 5 men in peril of their lives in pursuit, 24 oxen and kyne and 60 sheep.**
On 14th July	**4 of the same took from Ingram church, 4 webbes of lead.**
On 15th July	**12 of same took out of Strangwood, John Horsley's house, 120 sheep.**
On 16th July	**40 of West Teviotdale took out of Byrkhouses in Redesdale, 40 oxen and kyne.**
On 18th July	**300 of East Teviotdale took out of Wharton within 2 miles of Harbottle, and hurt 3 men, 30 oxen and kyne, and 6 horses.**
On same day	**6 men of same took out of Fawdon, 80 sheep.**
f **On 12th July**	**West Teviotdale took from Horseley, besides 2 men hurt on defence, 30 kyne.**
On 23rd July	**8 of East Teviotdale took at Beanly, 100 sheep.**
On St. James's Day	**20 of Liddesdale came in the day time to Haughton upon the water of Tyne, and broke and spoiled the house of Thomas Erington, gentleman, to the value of 100s in household stuff, and 30 kyne and oxen.**
On 28th July	**20 of East Teviotdale came in the evening to Eslington, Sir Cuthbert Collingwood's dwelling house, and hurt 2 off his servants, and took 3 geldings.**
On 7th August	**The Laird of Buccleuch with 200 men, burned the Woodsyde at Riddesdale and murdered one John Dunne.**
On 9th August	**160 of West Teviotdale burned Netherton within 2 miles of Harbottle and carried away 80 cattle.**
On 11th August	**400 of East Teviotdale took up Old Bewick, and carried away 500 oxen and kyne, 600 sheep, 30 horses and mares. On same night other 40 took away from Reveley, and burnt a house, 200 sheep, 30 kyne and oxen, 15 horses.**

SUM TOTALS

**100 horses and mares, 1148 oxen and kyne, 1020 sheep besides
20 prisoners ransomed and many hurt in defence.**

The Kilham Raid

WOODCUT – LINEART OF RAID INTO NORTHUMBERLAND

A typical example of a raid took place on 14th April 1597, when four Scotsmen attacked a poor man's house at Kilham in the Cheviot foothills and stole his cattle. The men of the village pursued the reivers, wounding and capturing three of them and taking them back to Kilham, together with the recovered cattle. The reiver who had escaped returned with forty men, but they were beaten off and two further prisoners were taken. However, within two hours, over one hundred Scots reivers returned to attack Kilham, leaving one villager killed, seven left for dead and several others wounded. The Scots prisoners were released and the villagers' cattle taken and driven across the Border.

Families at Feud

BORDER REIVERS HEIDMAN IMAGE

The introduction of the feudal system into the Scottish lowlands by the Anglo-Normans during the reign of King David I did not displace the ties of kin and clanship in the Tweed Valley. The primary loyalty remained with the "heidman" of the clan.

MAP – BORDER SURNAMES

Many of the families extended on both sides of the Border, like the Armstrongs, Crosiers, Halls and Nixons. Others had close ties with other families through marriage or traditional loyalties

These fierce family loyalties and the limited availability of resources led to quarrels and to feuds which sometimes lasted for decades.

FAMILIES AT FEUD CHART

For example, the Scotts and the Elliotts conducted what was effectively a small war that began in 1565 when Scott of Cessford summarily executed four Elliott for sheep stealing, the Herons and the Kerrs were at feud for over sixty years, the Kerrs and the Scotts for more than 30 years,

The Kerrs

The stories of the Kerrs and the Scotts are amongst the most colourful of all the families in the Scottish Borders.

The Kerrs were to gain three peerages which are today the Dukedom of Roxburghe, the Marquessate of Lothian and the Earldom of Ancrum, while the senior branch of the Scotts gained the title of Duke of Buccleuch and became the greatest landowners in Scotland.

Spelled variously with a single or double "r" in Scotland, and commonly as Carr in England, the name is first mentioned in 1190. The main branches of the family descend from two brothers, Ralph and John Kerr, who were living in the Borders in the early 14th century. From Ralph descended the Kerrs of Ferniehurst and from John the Kerrs of Cessford.

The Ferniehurst and Cessford lines were often at odds with each other in the factional fighting of medieval Scotland, and at various times Kerrs from each branch of the family were appointed to the post of Warden of the Scottish Middle March.

After Flodden, the Kerrs of Cessford supported the young King James V, while the Kerrs of Cessford supported the rival cause led by Archibald Douglas, 6th Earl of Angus, King James' stepfather.

The rivalry continued into the 16th century when the two branches of the family took opposing sides in the struggle between Mary Queen of Scots and her enemies. They were finally brought together in 1630, when William Kerr of Ferniehurst married Anne Kerr, heiress to the earldom on Lothian and descendant of the Cessford line.

One of the most colourful members of the family was Sir Andrew, known as "Dand" Kerr. After a long and turbulent career he was killed in a skirmish near Melrose in 1526 by a force led by Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch, an event that led to the long-standing feud between the Kerrs and the Scotts.

The Scotts

The Scott family came originally from Ireland. The first mention of the family in Scottish history is in 1130, when Uchtred Fitz Scott was one of the signatories to the charter granted by King David I's to Selkirk Abbey.

The ancestor of the Scotts of Buccleuch was Sir Richard Scott, who was granted estates in Selkirk and Roxburghshire by King Alexander II.

Several later Scotts of Buccleuch died fighting against the English. Sir Richard's son Michael fought at Halidon Hill in 1333, but died at the Battle of Neville's Cross three years later. Michael's second son, John Scott, was the ancestor of Sir Walter Scott, "the Wizard of the North".

Sir Robert, the third Laird of Buccleuch died in 1389, of wounds he suffered at the Battle of Otterburn in the previous year.

His son, Sir Walter, was killed at Homildon Hill in 1402.

The 8th Laird of Buccleuch was one of the few senior officers to escape the slaughter at Flodden Field in 1513. His son Walter, known as "Wicked Wat" fought alongside his father at Flodden. It was "Wicked Wat" who began the long-running feud with the Kerrs when, in 1526, he led an attempt to rescue the 15 year old King James V from the clutches of the Earl of Angus near Melrose. Sir Andrew "Dand" Kerr, who was fighting for Angus, was killed in the fight.

"Wicked Wat" gained one of the few Scots' victories over the English during the so-called "Rough Wooing", at the Battle of Ancrum Moor in 1544.

The feud between the Scotts and the Kerrs of Ferniehurst continued until 1569, when Janet Scott, sister of the 10th Laird of Buccleuch, married Sir Thomas Kerr of Ferniehurst.

Their son Walter gained the nickname "The Bold Buccleuch". His most famous exploit was in 1596, when he led an attack on the supposedly impregnable Carlisle Castle and rescued the notorious outlaw William Armstrong, known as "Kinmont Willie". With the pacification of the Borders following the Union of the crowns, the Bold Buccleuch took his fighting skills abroad, where he fought for the Protestant Prince William of Orange against the Spanish in the Netherlands.

Tweedies and Geddes

One of many examples of bloody feuds between neighbouring clans began in 1559, when James Tweedy of Drummelzier, James Tweedy of Fruid, Patrick, William and John, his brothers and Thomas Tweedy, alias "Long Tom." were accused of the "**cruel slaughter**" of William Geddes of Cuthill Hall. They were granted "respite" under the Privy Seal, effectively probation, for a period of nineteen years

This feud continued for the next fifty years, and resulted in the Tweedies being embroiled also with the Naismiths of Posso.

For some reason, a gang of Tweedies had assaulted and **"douncast"** the Naismith's house of Stirkfield. As a result, on 15th September 1589, a caution was entered in the sum of £500 that William Tweedy, the eldest lawful son of John Tweedy (sometime tutor of Drummelzier), should be **"harmless to Thomas Naismith of Posso".** Similar surety was given by John Tweedy, merchant burgess of Edinburgh, and others, on 24th September to the effect that Thomas Naismith of Posso, his tenants and servants should be **"harmless from James Tweedy of Drummelzier under pain of £4,000 merks".**

On 4th October 1589, John, Lord Fleming gave caution in the sum of £5,000 merks for John Tweedy and £5,000 merks for James Tweedy of Drummelzier "that certain of the Naismiths should be harmless".

At the close of 1592, the feud with the Geddes family blazed up again when a gang led by James Tweedy **"shamefully, cruelly and unhonestlie with shots of pistols murdered and slew"** James Geddes in the High Street of Edinburgh. Tweedy was imprisoned for the murder, but escaped soon afterwards.

The Tweedies apparently made a lot of enemies! In December 1562, James Tweedy of Fruid had been attacked and mortally wounded while seated before the fire in the house of William Tweedy, a burgess of Edinburgh. Patrick Hunter, John Hunter, John Burn, George Patterson and William Glen were tried for this murder, and they were all acquitted.

In 1565, Adam Tweedy of Dreva, a man of "**violent and ungovernable temper",** committed the crime of cutting off Robert Ramage's **"lugges"** and **"dismembering him thereof"**. Tweedy admitted the crime, but pleaded to the King and was accordingly absolved. Poor Ramage appeared not to have received any form of redress.

Two Tweedies were even implicated in the "slaughter of David Rizzio", Mary Queen of Scots' secretary and favourite, on 9th March 1566. William Tweedy of Drummelzier and Adam Tweedy of Dreva were named and denounced as rebels.

The Tweedies were actively involved in reiving, too.

On 13th September 1572, complaints were made to the Privy Council by Duncan Weir of Staneburne that William Tweedy, with Roger his brother, his sons Simon and Adam, John Tweedy the tutor of Drummelzier, and others, **"had assaulted the house of Staneburne and raided it of cattle, horses and various articles."** The matter was referred to the Lords of Sessions **"to do justice therein according to the laws of the Realm"**, but there is no record of the result of the case.

Reiving was a two-way business. On 15th December 1592, Walter Scott of Branxholme, with about 200 followers, attacked the Tweedies' estates. They drove off 4,000 sheep, 200 oxen and cows, 40 horses and mares, and moveable goods to the value of £2,000, all belonging to James Tweedy of Drummelzier and Adam Tweedy of Dreva and their tenants.

The Tweedies continued to be involved in armed attacks on their neighbours as late as 1609!

END OF PART ONE

PART TWO

Union of The Crowns

On his arrival at Newcastle in 1603, King James VI of Scotland issued a proclamation to his messengers, sheriffs and others: **"The late Marches and the Borders of the two realms of England and Scotland are now the heart of the country. Proclamation to be made against all rebels and disorderly persons that no supply be given them, their wives or their bairns, and that they be prosecuted with fire and sword. All places of strength in those parts are to be demolished, except the habitation of noblemen and barons, their iron yettes to be converted into ploughshares and their inhabitants to betake themselves to agriculture and other works of peace."**

The Covenanters

When the Reformation came to England and then to Scotland in the mid-16th century, many families in the Tweed Valley and Northumberland kept to the Old Faith.

The Catholic faction in the North of England included great families like the Percies and the Nevilles, and local landowners like the Haggerstons. In the Scottish Borders, the Scotts and the Kerrs were prominent in supporting the Catholic Cause of Mary Queen of Scots.

In the 1630s, Charles I attempted to impose bishops and the Anglican Book of Common Prayer on the Church of Scotland. In response, in 1638, supporters of Presbyterianism in Scotland signed a National Covenant in Greyfriars kirkyard in Edinburgh, declaring their resistance to the changes. One of their foremost advocates was Samuel Rutherford, who was born at Nesbit and educated at Jedburgh Grammar School. His book "Lex Rex" argued that the King had no Divine Right to rule, adding a constitutional element to the religious debate.

The Bishops Wars

King Charles regarded the Covenanters as rebels and in the Spring of 1639, he raised an army and marched to Berwick. They camped beside the Tweed near Horncliffe.

General Sir Alexander Leslie built a strong, fortified encampment for the Covenanting army on Duns Law. The Covenanters' Stone is supposed to mark the spot where their standard was raised, bearing the motto "For Crown and Covenant".

PHOTO – COVENANTERS' STONE

The King's forces were unable to dislodge the Covenanters and Charles was obliged to compromise in the Treaty of Berwick. This put an end to what became known as the First Bishops' War.

Conflict broke out again in the following year and the King rose another army, partly officered this time by Catholics, which enraged many moderate Puritans in England as well as the Scots. One of these officers was murdered by his own me at Berwick and other companies refused to march northwards to confront the Covenanters.

General Leslie crossed the Tweed again and occupied Newcastle, forcing Charles to sign a second humiliating truce, bringing the Second Bishops' War to a close.

Civil War

Having made their point against the King and secured the independence of the Church in Scotland, the Scottish parliament remained neutral at the outbreak of the Civil War in 1642.

However, the Covenanters in Scotland were the neutral allies of the puritans in England and, in 1643, the Solemn League and Covenant was agreed between the parliaments of Scotland and England. This promised an army of 20,000 Scottish soldiers to assist the English parliament's cause in the war against King Charles, in return for an agreement that the bishops would be removed from the Church of England.

PORTRAIT – ALEXANDER LESLIE, LORD LEVEN

Under Alexander Leslie, the Earl of Leven and General David Leslie, the Covenanting army played a significant part in defeating the royalists in northern England.

PORTRAIT – JAMES GRAHAM, MARQUIS OF MONTROSE

However, they faced an internal threat from forces loyal to the King in Scotland, under the commanded of James Graham, Marquis of Montrose. Montrose had been a prominent officer in the Covenanting army during the Bishops' Wars but, like many people at the time he faced a struggle between his personal convictions and his loyalty to the Crown.

With a small army of Catholic Irishmen and Scottish highlanders, Montrose scored a series of stunning victories over much larger Covenanting forces, taking over almost all of Scotland. The main Scots army was recalled from the campaign in England and, in September 1645, they confronted each other near the confluence of the Ettrick and the Yarrow, close to Selkirk.

Montrose was lodging overnight in Selkirk with about 200 horse. His Irish foot-soldiers were encamped a few miles away beside the Ettrick water, near the farm of Philiphaugh.

Catholic families in the Tweed Valley had promised support for Montrose. Lords Roxburgh and Hume offered 2,000 cavalry, and Lord Traquair sent his eldest son with 1,000 horsemen to join Montrose at Selkirk.

The Battle of Philiphaugh

The weather was very foggy and the royalist scouts found no sign of the Convenanting army in the area. Montrose's scoutmaster was Captain Blackadder!

General David Leslie had outmanoeuvred Montrose and was fast encircling his encampment at Philiphaugh.

Roxburgh and Hume bringing their reinforcements ran into part of the Covenanting army near Kelso and allowed themselves to be captured without a fight. Hearing the news, young Traquair led his men out of Selkirk during the night, abandoning Montrose to his fate.

Taken by surprise in front and rear in the misty dawn, Montrose's few hundred Irish and highland troops were quickly overcome by 6,000 Covevanters. Montrose led his 200 horse onto the battlefield, but the situation was hopeless and he was persuaded to make his escape over the wilds of Minch Moor to fight another day,

400 Irishmen fell in the fight and the others surrendered on being promised their lives if they laid down their arms. Against the orders of General Leslie, the Covenanting ministers accompanying the army encouraged the soldiers to slaughter their prisoners. Some 200 boys and 500 women camp-followers were also massacred with terrible brutality, some in the fields and others in the courtyard of nearby Newark Castle. A field close by the castle is known as Slainsmanlea.

PHOTO – NEWARK CASTLE

A few hundred royalist prisoners were held in Selkirk gaol until the burgesses raised sufficient money to buy powder and buckets to have them short publicly in the Market Place.

PHOTO – BATTLE OF PHILIPHAUGH PLAQUE

A sad reminder found on the battlefield at Philiphaugh was a locket, engraved on the cover with a heart pierced by arrows and the motto "I died for loyalty". Inside the locket are a portrait and the words "I mourn for monarchy".

There are lots of stories about the fate of Montrose's army's pay-chest. Some say it was thrown into a well near Tinnis Castle, or a pool in the Yarrow Water near Harehead, where it is guarded by the Devil.

Persecution of the Covenanters

With the Restoration of the Monarchy following the Civil War, an Act of Proclamation in the Scottish Parliament banished all ministers who did not hold a licence from a bishop. Covenanters suffered fines and imprisonment.

The main prosecutors of the Covenanters in the Tweed Valley area were the Earl of Lauderdale and John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee, who took pleasure in hunting down dissidents with their troops of dragoons. At least 180 Covenanters were summarily executed. These were known as "the killing times".

IMAGE – COVENANTERS' CONVENTICLE

The Covenanters took to holding their services in the open air in remote spots where they could keep watch for their pursuers.   These field conventicles, or "blanket preaching", as the practice was known, continued to be held until recent times in the valleys of the Ettrick and the Yarrow and around the Kale Water. An area near Morebattle is still called the "Singing Brae". Alexander Peden, an Ayrshire preacher who travelled widely in the Borders, gave his name to Peden's Pulpit on a hill near Hawick and Peden's Cleugh near Jedburgh.

During the reign of Charles II, there were several rising and plots involving Covenanters. As a result, some 30,000 Scots Covenanters emigrated to Ulster between 1660 and 1690. A further 10,000 left in 1692.

Some local lairds were prominent among the Covenanters in the Borders.

Robert Baillie of Jerviswood owned the Whyteside Estate, later known as Mellerstain. His nearby neighbour and friend in the Covenanting cause was Sir Patrick Hume of Polwarth. Hume had already spent time in prison in the 1660s, denounced for his support for Presbyterianism.

In 1684, Baillie was implicated in the Rye House Plot against Charles II, and was arrested and condemned to death for High Treason.

His friend, Patrick Hume, communicated with him by sending messages carried by his twelve year old daughter Grizzell.

Baillie was tried and executed and soon Hume himself fell under suspicion. To avoid the King's men, he hid in the crypt of the family church at Polwarth.

PHOTO – POLWARTH CHURCH

For several weeks, young Grizzell brought him food and drink until the coast was clear enough for the whole family to escape to exile in the Netherlands. There they were joined by Robert Baillie's son, George, who became an officer in the army of William of Orange.

The persecution continued under Catholic King James II, until the Glorious Revolution brought Protestant King William of Orange and Queen Mary to the throne and tolerance was guaranteed for Presbyterians in Scotland.

Hume returned to Scotland and was rewarded for his loyalty to the Cause by being created Earl of Marchmont and Chancellor of Scotland,

In 1691, Grizzell married Robert Baillie and became Mistress of Mellerstain.

PORTRAIT – GRIZZELL HUME

The Jacobite Risings

Armies marched through the Tweed Valley again during the Jacobite Risings in the 18th century.

The staunch Protestant George Baillie of Whyteside (Mellerstain) paid for weapons and ammunition to support the Hanoverian Cause. His house was looted by Jacobites on their way to muster for King James VII at Kelso in 1715.

In 1745, Bonnie Prince Charlie led his army through the Tweed Valley and Teviotdale, expecting to gain substantial support in the area. Everywhere he was met with good wishes and the kissing of his hand, but no recruits. As he left from Kelso, disappointed again, a shoe fell from his horse's hoof – an ominous sign. It can still be seen in the cobbles of the street today.

PHOTO – HORSESHOE AT KELSO

The Lord of Traquair gave warm hospitality to the Prince and promised that the great Bear Gates to his estate would not be opened again until a Stuart was once more on the Throne in London. But no soldiers! The gates still stand shut today!

PHOTO – BEAR GATES AT TRAQUAIR

It is said that at Jedburgh one man volunteered for Bonnie Prince Charlie's army, but he arrived a day too late!

The Tweed Valley was the setting for dramatic events during the Bishops Wars,

The Civil War and the Jacobite Risings, but its people suffered none of the devastation that had been so common during the centuries before the Union of the Crowns, They were spared the privations suffered by folk further south and further north. Towns were not sacked, marauding armies did not strip away all the produce and livestock, leaving the people to starve.

Though religious convictions were strongly held, the Borderers pragmatism saved the Tweed Valley from the worst effects of conflict and the area began to settle into a period of peace during which the landscape was transformed from a wasteland to one of the most productive agricultural regions of Britain.