



Pluckemin Presbyterian Church, New Jersey

There were various theories about what the word "Pluckemin" meant. Some said it was derived from an Indian word; others said it referred to the way Jacob Eoff, the German tavern keeper in the village, would lure travelers into his establishment "by nailing a loose horseshoe to the ground on the road outside his tavern... the passers-by would certainly dismount to grab the shoe, and Eoff would "Pluck-'em-in."²³⁵⁰

Rev. Samuel Parry of Somerville, New Jersey, the pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Pluckemin, wanted to get to the bottom of it all and spent a considerable amount of time investigating the meaning of the name "Pluckemin." His findings were presented in the *Somerset County Historical Quarterly* in 1912.²³⁵¹

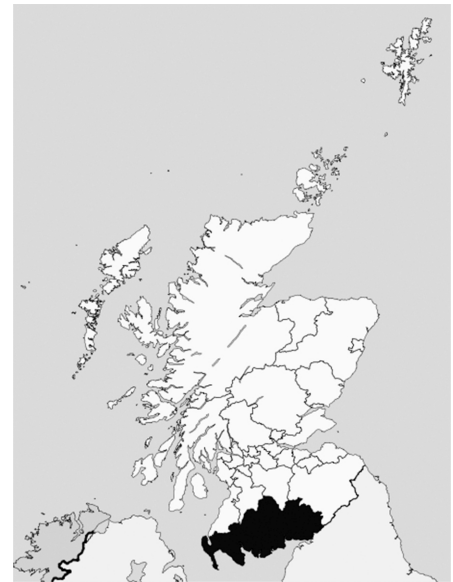
Upon reading a Scottish book called *The Standard Bearer* and discovering within it references to "Clachan of Pluckamin" and "Four Roads of Pluckemin," Rev. Parry commenced a correspondence with its author, Samuel Rutherford Crockett, who affirmed that there was indeed a "small hamlet" in the Lowlands of Dumfries and Galloway in southwestern Scotland, called Pluckamin or Pluckemin, spelled with either an "a" or an "e."²³⁵² Crockett himself was born nearby. He recollected that it had been a farm town with a few small thatched houses, though at the time he was writing (1901) only one small house remained on what was then – and still is – the Farm of Bargatton.²³⁵³



Samuel Rutherford Crockett Memorial in Laurieston, Dumfries and Galloway



Samuel Rutherford Crockett



Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland

About two miles north of Pluckamin there was a larger village called Clachanpluck²³⁵⁴ in the center of the Parish of Balmaghie, where the Presbytery met frequently. Many of the locals were Covenanters. In fact, in October 1684, a court was convened in Kirkcudbright to try fugitive Covenanters who fled to Balmaghie and the locals there who were accused of hiding them. Two Alexander Campbells, one a miller and the other a weaver, both of Urioch north of Laurieston, were listed on the Fugitive Rolls. A William Campbell was summoned to the court for conversing with the rebels at Blates Mill.²³⁵⁵

John MacMillan, a minister of Balmaghie in 1701, described the early environs of Balmaghie parish and the passions of its parishioners: