

AUCHENCAIRN

A KEY LOCATION in the #GoCrocketteering literary tourism trails.

See www.gallowayraiders.co.uk for more information.



Of Auchencairn Crockett wrote in *Raiderland*:
‘Quiet it is, and quiet it is likely to remain. But mayhap that is the best fortune of all—to be loved by a few greatly and constantly, rather than to be loudly applauded and immediately forgotten by the many.’

The range of characters he introduces us to in his Solway fictions are many and varied, and his stories set here span 300 years.

‘The little, bright, rose-bowered, garden-circled, seaside village of Auchencairn’ was held in special affection by Crockett, who inherited ‘Castle Daffin’ in the village, and was a regular visitor all his life. He used the area as the inspiration for many of his novels, including *The Raiders*, *The Dark o’ the Moon*, *Silver Sand*, *The Moss Troopers*, *The Smugglers* and *Rogues’ Island*.

The Solway caves and nearby coast are vividly brought to life in Crockett’s writing and many places real and imaginary offer the reader the opportunity to explore this wonderful part of the country from their armchair. Others may pick up the challenge to find locations from the novels for themselves.

Many people know that Hestan Island is the ‘real’ Isle Rathan: *‘If there be anything bonnier or sweeter in this world than a May morning on the Isle of Rathan by the Solway shore, I have yet to see it’*, but fewer are familiar with ‘Orraland’, the Heuchs of Rascarrel, Red Ha’en, or the many caves and coastal features Crockett weaves into his fictions of smugglers and raiders from times gone by. From Orchardton Tower to the flats of Torr, Crockett uses familiar locations to invite exploration in fact and fiction.

You can buy all Crockett’s Galloway based novels in paperback or ebook and if you take part in #GoCrocketteering you can get free ebooks, in exchange for taking #SlateSelfies.