



Margaret Cuthbertson



Name: Margaret Cuthbertson

We don't know Margaret's age, status, or how she was linked to Jenet Pennycuik and Janet Bishop. Perhaps they were neighbours - Penicuik was a small village in those days. It's worth noting that this is the second occasion in 1629 that a group of three women were accused together. Was there something threatening at the time, about three women being close friends?

Some modern readers mis-read Cuthbertson as 'Enderson' in the court records - due to the fancy writing script of the day. Cuthbertson was likely to have been Margaret's maiden name - in the 1600s, women didn't change their surname even when they married.

*Ah am Margaret Cuthbertson,
They burned me on the eighteenth day o'
December, 1629,
With Janet and Jenet beside me.
Their names lived longer;
mine lingered like smoke. What was my crime?
There is nae record.
Perhaps a whisper,
A neighbour's fear, a minister's word.
Perhaps nothing at all.
I stood in the same place,
felt the same heather and coal,
heard the same psalms,
twisted into judgment.
Remember me, for the page forgot me.
Let ma name be spoken among the women
who died in silence.*

