

Scotland: Bruce

Robert the Bruce

“Robert I (1274 – 1329) the Bruce holds an honored place in Scottish history as the king (1306 – 1329) who resisted the English and freed Scotland from their rule. He hailed from the Bruce family, one of several who vied for the Scottish throne in the 1200s. His grandfather, also named Robert the Bruce, had been an unsuccessful claimant to the Scottish throne in 1290. Robert I Bruce became earl of Carrick in 1292 at the age of 18, later becoming lord of Annandale and of the Bruce territories in England when his father died in 1304.

“In 1296, Robert pledged his loyalty to King Edward I of England, but the following year he joined the struggle for national independence. He fought at his father’s side when the latter tried to depose the Scottish king, John Baliol. Baliol’s fall opened the way for fierce political infighting. In 1306, Robert quarreled with and eventually murdered the Scottish patriot John Comyn, Lord of Badenoch, in their struggle for leadership. Robert claimed the throne and traveled to Scone where he was crowned king on March 27, 1306, in open defiance of King Edward.

“A few months later the English defeated Robert’s forces at Methven. Robert fled to the west, taking refuge on the island of Rathlin off the coast of Ireland. Edward then confiscated Bruce property, punished Robert’s followers, and executed his three brothers. A legend has Robert learning courage and perseverance from a determined spider he watched during his exile.

“Robert returned to Scotland in 1307 and won a victory at Loudon Hill. Edward I launched a campaign against the Scottish rebels, but he died on his way north. He was succeeded by his son, Edward II, who was unable to continue his father’s campaign. Robert launched his own campaign to regain control of Scotland, beginning in the north and advancing south, seizing one region after another and recapturing lands and castles from the English. In 1313, he captured Perth; a year later at Bannockburn, he inflicted a crushing defeat on a large English force under the command of Edward II. As the war continued, the Scots recaptured Berwick in 1318. When the English refused to make peace or acknowledge Robert as king of Scotland, Robert raided northern England as well.

“In 1327, yet another English king, Edward III, tried to crush the Scottish rebellion. When he failed, the English crown finally agreed to the Treaty of Northampton (1328) that recognized the independence of Scotland and Robert’s right to the throne. The treaty also provided for the marriage of Robert’s son David to King Edward’s sister. Robert spent the brief remaining years of his life in his castle in Cardross, where he died in 1329.

“Robert solidified Scotland’s status as an independent kingdom by securing an orderly succession for his son, who became King David II.”

The Family of Bruce

The following account is from Florence Van Rensselaer, *The Livingston Family in America and Its Scottish Origins*, New York, 1949, pages 30, 31, 55 to 58. It is partly undocumented and must be viewed with suspicion where unsupported by references.

Sveide of Upland, a Viking 760-800.

Halfden, the Aged, ruler of Upland in 800, murdered by Gudrod, King of Scandia.

Ivar . . . a jarl or earl of Upland in 830, from whom came the early Kings of Sweden and of Denmark.

Euslin, named Glumra of Vors, fled into Norway to escape Danish tyranny. He married secondly Ascrida, daughter of Rognvald, son of Olaf an independent king of Norway.

Rognvald¹, Earl of Norther Mere and Raumsdale in 885, later Earl of South Mere married secondly Groa, daughter of Wrymund, King of Trondherm. When his son Ivar, fighting under King Harald was killed in Scotland, the King gave Earl Rognvald the Orkneys and Shetland. He died in 890.

Elnar Torf Elnar, fourth Earl of Orkney. The name of his wife, and the date of his death are unknown.

Thorfinn Hausklifr, fifth Earl of Orkney, and in Earl of Shetland, married Grelad or Grelota, daughter of Dungad, jarl or earl of Cathanes.

Hlodver, or Lodver, sixth Earl of Orkney, died circa 980, and was buried at Hofu in Cathanes; married Audna, daughter of Kiarval, King of Ireland, King of Dublin 872 – 887.

Sigurd², seventh Earl of Orkney, who about embraced Christianity; married secondly Olith, Alice or Thora, daughter of Malcolm II King of Scotland. (See *Scotland*, Generation Nineteen) He was converted from paganism by King Olaf Tryggvison of Norway who came on an expedition to Orkney and baptized all the people of the Orkneys. He fought in several wars, and went in 1014 to Ireland where he was killed in the great combat at Clontarf 23 April 1014.

Brusi, Earl of Orkney, and Earl of Cathanes and Sutherland. He died in 1031; married Ostrida, daughter of Regenwald Wolfson, Earl of Gothland. Earl Brusi held two-thirds of Orkney, by the support of King Olaf, of which he lost one half in 1030. He was converted to Christianity in the eleventh century.

Rognvald, Governor of the Castle of Oldegorburg in Russia, died post 1046; married second Felicia, daughter of Robert, Duke of Normandy. Early in life he was held in hostage at the court of King Olaf the Holy, of Norway. He took possession of Orkney and proclaimed himself ruler of all of his uncle's dominion in Cathanes and Hebrides, and lived for a time on the Island of Papa Stronsay, later he was killed by Thorkell Fostri a follower of his uncle Thorfinn.

¹ The genealogy from Halfden to Rognvald is shown in George Andrews Moriarty: *The Plantagenet Ancestry of King Edward III and Queen Philippa*, Mormon Pioneer Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1985, pages 10 and 11. (See *Normandy*, Generations One to Four.) Moriarty doesn't show Sveide of Upland.

² If Sigurd who married a daughter of Malcolm II of Scotland was an ancestor of later Bruces, it is strange they didn't mention it when claiming the throne. Perhaps they didn't know about this descent? Or perhaps this part of the list is not a genealogical family tree but rather a list of the ancient Earls of Orkney?

Brusi, or Robert de Brusee, who built the castle of La Brusee or Bruis, now Brix in Normandy, married Emma, daughter of Alain, Earl of Brittany.

Sir Robert de Brusse, followed the standard of William, Duke of Normandy³ into England in 1066, married Agnes, daughter of Walderne, Earl of St. Clair. He was a man of distinguished character and stood high in the favor of the Conqueror. He possessed many manors in the several ridings of Yorkshire and died about 1094.

Sir Adelme or Adam de Brusee, came to England in 1050 in attendance upon Emma of Normandy, married Emma de Ramsay, daughter of Sir William de Ramsay. Emma de Normandy was a daughter of Richard I of Normandy by his wife Gonnor, and became the Queen of Ethelred, King of England. He joined the army of William the Conqueror⁴, and received the barony of Skelton and the lordship of Cleveland.

Sir Robert de Brusee, born circa 1078, was the head of the barony of Bruce, and died in 1141, married Agnes de Paganell and became the first baron of Skelton and Annandale. He gave the church of Middleburgh and some lands to the monks of Whitby to establish a cell of the Abbey of Guisburn in Cleveland. In the battle of the Standard 22 August 1138 he was in command of a large part of the army of the English king. He was buried in Guisburn Priory.

Sir Robert de Brus, second baron of Annandale, adhered to the cause of King David. He married secondly Euphemia. — He also had lands in England, the lordship of Hart, in the bishopric of Durham, and through his first wife Judith, daughter of Sir William de Lancaster, Lord of Kendall, he succeeded to the possession of the Lordship of Kendall; his youngest son was:

Sir William de Brus, third baron of Annandale, he also held the English manors of Helt and Haltwhistle, the name of his wife is not on record. He died between 1199 and 1215; some authorities give the tenth year of the reign of King Richard I, while others the sixteenth year of the reign of King John I

Sir Robert de Brus⁵, fourth baron of Annandale, died in 1245, and was buried in the Abbey of Sabre, near Stilton; married Isabel de Huntingdon, daughter of David, Earl of Huntingdon, son of Prince Henry of Scotland and grandson of David I, King of Scots, thus bringing the legitimate royal blood of Scotland into the Bruce family. By this royal match the Lords of Annandale attained to high rank among the most powerful and wealthy noble families of Scotland and England.

Sir Robert Bruce, “The Competitor”, Lord of Annandale, died on Good Friday in 1295; married first 1240 Isabel de Clare . . . (See *Scotland*, Generation Twenty-seven)

. . . Florence Van Rensselaer, *The Livingston Family in America and Its Scottish Origins*, New York, 1949, pages 30, 31, 55 to 58.

³ “Robert de Brix” is shown on the Dives-sur-Mer List as a Companion of Duke William.

⁴ “Adam de Brix” is shown on the Battle Abbey Roll as a Companion of Duke William.

⁵ The genealogy from here on is shown in Douglas Richarson: *Magna Carta Ancestry*, Balitmore, 2005, pages 731 – 735 and Frederick Lewis Weis: *Ancestral Roots*, Baltimore, 1999 Line 252. (See *Scotland* Generation Twenty-six) For Robert de Brus (died in 1245), Weis suggests: “For his ancestry, see *Scots Peerage* II, 429 – 432; *Early Yorkshire Charters* II 430 – 432.”

Scotland: Donald Bane

Enter MALCOLM and DONALBAIN.

Donalbain. What is amiss?

Macbeth. You are, and do not know 't:
The spring, the head, the fountain of your blood
Is stopp'd; the very source of it is stopp'd.

Macduff. Your royal father's murder'd.

Malcolm. O! by whom?

* * * * *

Exeunt all but MALCOLM and DONALBAIN.

Malcolm. What will you do? Let's not consort with them:
To show an unfelt sorrow is an office
Which the false man does easy. I'll to England.

Donalbain. To Ireland, I; our separated fortune
Shall keep us both the safer: where we are,
There's daggers in men's smiles: the near in blood,
The nearer bloody.

. . . William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*, Act II Scene III, Oxford University Press, London, 1914

Donald Bane and Macbeth

Macbeth was born circa 1005 and died (killed in battle) on August 15, 1057. Macbeth was actually a competent monarch who suffered badly at the hands of William Shakespeare. Although he had a sound claim to the throne of Scotland he had to deal with many who would take his place, including Crinan and Duncan's sons Malcolm and Donald Bane.

Donald Bane, also spelled Donaldbane, or Donalbane; Bane also spelled Ban or Bain, was born circa 1033 and died sometime shortly after 1097. He was king of Scotland from November 1093 to May 1094 and from November 1094 to October 1097.

Upon the death of his brother Malcolm III Cànmore in 1093 there was a fierce contest for the crown. Donald Bane besieged Edinburgh Castle, took it, and, with the support of the Celtic Scots and the custom of tanistry (the Celtic system of electing kings or chiefs; whereby the successor of a king was elected during his lifetime from the eldest and worthiest of his kin, often a brother or cousin in preference to a descendant), he was king nominally for at least six months. He was expelled by Duncan II, son of Malcolm, assisted by English and Normans and some Saxons. Duncan's reign was equally short, for Donald Bane had his nephew slain and again reigned for three years.

These years saw the last attempt of the Celts to maintain a king of their race and a kingdom governed according to their customs. Edgar the Aetheling, who had newly befriended William Rufus, the Norman King of England, led an army into Scotland, dispossessed Donald Bane, and advanced his nephew Edgar, son of Malcolm III, as sole king of the Scots.

It is fitting that Donald Bane was interred, as was Macbeth, at the Isle of Iona, with the ancient Celtic Kings of Dalriada, Alba and Scotland around him. He was the last Scottish King to be buried there.

The Descendants of Donald Bane

Generation One

Donald Bane, King Donald III of Scotland

Born circa 1033

Died after 1097, probably circa 1099, and interred at the Isle of Iona, Scotland.

Donald Bane was a son of King Duncan I “the Gracious” of Scotland and Æflaed (Sybil) of Northumbria. (See *Scotland*, Generation Twenty-one) Donald Bane had a daughter:

- **Bethoc**, mentioned next.

Generation Two

Bethoc

Bethoc married circa 1085 to Hadria of Tynedale and they had a daughter:

- **Hextilda of Tynedale**, mentioned next.

Generation Three

Hextilda of Tynedale

Hextilda married first circa 1145 to Richard Comyn of Northallerton and Badenoch, and they had a son:

- **William Comyn**, mentioned next.

Hextilda married second to Malcolm, 2nd Earl of Atholl

Generation Four

William Comyn, Earl of Buchan

Died in 1233

William married first to Sarah, daughter and heir of Robert Fitz Hugh, and they had a son:

- Richard Comyn, who had a son:
 - Sir John Comyn, “The Red Comyn #1”, who had a son:
 - Sir John Comyn, “The Black Comyn”, one of the 13 claimants to the Throne of Scotland in 1291 based on this descent from Donald Bane. Sir John married Alianora de Baliol, a great grand daughter of David, Earl of Huntingdon, a grandson of David “The Saint”, King of Scotland. (See *Scotland*, Generation Twenty-five) Their son:
 - Sir John Comyn, “The Red Comyn #2”, had a claim to the throne of Scotland through both his mother and father. He was murdered by Robert the Bruce on February 10, 1306 at the Church of the Grey Friars, Dumfries.

William married second to Margaret, Countess of Buchan, daughter and heir of Fergus, 4th Earl of Buchan. William and Margaret had the following children:

- **Alexander Comyn** who married **Elizabeth de Quincy**, second daughter and co-heir of Roger de Quincy and Helen of Galloway and grand daughter of Magna Charta Surety Saher de Quincy. (See *De Quincy*, Generation Five)
- **Elizabeth Comyn**, mentioned next.

Generation Five

Elizabeth Comyn

Died in 1297

Elizabeth married William, Earl of Mar and they had a son:

- **Donald, 6th Earl of Mar**

Generation Six

Donald, 6th Earl of Mar

Died circa 1292

Married to Helen, a daughter of **Llwelyn Fawr “the Great” ap Iorwerth**, Prince of Wales. (See *Wales*, Generation Thirty) Donald and Helen had the following children:

- Margaret (Mary) of Mar,
- **Isabel of Mar**, mentioned next.
- Garnait (Gratney) 7th Earl of Mar
- Duncan of Mar
- Alexander of Mar

Generation Seven

Isabel of Mar

Isabel married to **Robert the Bruce**, King of Scotland and they had a daughter:

- **Princess Marjorie Bruce** (See *Scotland*, Generation Thirty)

Sources

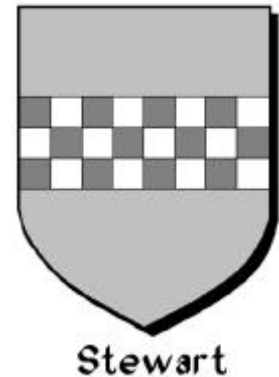
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Scotland: Stewart

The ancient arms of Stewart are described as “Or, A fesse chequée azure and argent” (A.C. Fox-Davies: *A complete Guide to Heraldry*, London, 1909) which means “a gold shield with a horizontal bar with small blue and silver squares like a checker or chess board” However, these arms didn’t appear until the 13th century, and our story begins with Alan, Dapifer of Dol in the 11th century.

Alan was the Dapifer or Steward of Dol, an estate in Brittany around the time of the Norman Conquest of England. Brittany was a Celtic country founded by Welsh, Cornish and probably Strathclyde immigrants who settled there in the early 3rd, 4th and 5th centuries. Alan’s family is said to have been a cadet branch to the Dukes of Brittany who were kings two centuries earlier.

Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* (based loosely on Holished’s *Chronicles*) indicates that the House of Stewart originated from Banquo, Thane of Lochaber. Banquo probably never existed; but was invented to give the Stewarts an ancient Scottish origin that was easy for contemporary audiences to understand.



Generation One

Alan, Dapifer of Dol

Died circa 1050

Alan was the hereditary Steward or Dapifer of Dol-de-Bretagne is about 30 miles north of Rennes in Brittany, France. A steward or dapifer was the man responsible for running the day to day affairs of the lord’s lands, usually supervising several manors. Alan had the following children:

- Alan, Seneschal of Dol was one of the leaders of the First Crusade, and he perished circa 1097 in Jerusalem, apparently dying without issue, as his inheritance reverted to his brother Flaald.
- **Flaald**, mentioned next.

Generation Two

Flaald, Seneschal or Steward of Dol.

Died in 1110

Flaald confirmed circa 1097 a grant by his brother Alan of a site for the Abbey Mezuoit attached to the Church of St. Florent de Saumur. Flaald was on the Welsh border circa 1101. Flaald had a son:

- **Alan FitzFlaald**, mentioned next.

Generation Three

Alan FitzFlaald, Sheriff of Shropshire

Died circa 1114

Alan FitzFlaald obtained a grant of the castle of Oswestry in Shropshire and was Sheriff of Shropshire. He married Adeliza de Hesding, a younger daughter of Aurnulf, Signor de Hesding in Picardy who held great estates in England at the time of the Domesday Book in 1086. Alan and Adeliza had the following children:

- William FitzAlan, born circa 1105, died on Easter, 1160.
- **Walter FitzAlan**, mentioned next.
- Simon (Jordon) FitzAlan, hereditary Steward or Dapifer of Dol, is sometimes described as the eldest son, and sometimes as the youngest.

Generation Four

Walter FitzAlan, 1st Steward of Scotland

Died in 1177

The title of Steward of Scotland was bestowed on Walter FitzAlan by David I, King of Scotland (See *Scotland*, Generation Twenty-three); under whose reign and the reigns of his brothers Edgar and Alexander before him, the Anglo-Norman feudal system and culture became more established in Scotland. King Malcolm IV (1153 - 1165) confirmed the honour bestowed by David I and made the office of Steward of Scotland hereditary in Walter's family. Walter founded the Abbey of Paisley for monks of the Clunic order in 1160; and he defeated Somerled of the Isles in 1164.

Walter married to Eschina de Londoniuis, widow of Robert de Croc and probably daughter of Thomas de Londoniuis; and they a son:

- **Alan FitzWalter**, mentioned next.

Generation Five

Alan FitzWalter, 2nd High Steward of Scotland

Died in 1204

Alan was present with his father at the defeat of Somerled of the Isles in 1164; and in 1191 he accompanied King Richard on the Third Crusade. Alan married to Eva, daughter of Sweyn Thor's-son, overlord of Cranford.

- **Walter Stewart**, mentioned next.
- David FitzAlan
- Leonard FitzAlan
- **Aveline FitzAlan** who married Duncan MacGilbert, 1st Earl of Carrick; their son:
 - **Neil, 2nd Earl of Carrick** who married his cousin **Margaret (Marjory, Isabel or Isabella) Stewart**. (See Generation Six)

Generation Six

Walter Stewart, 3rd High Steward of Scotland and Justicar of Scotland.

Died in 1241

Instead of taking the name "Walter FitzAlan", Walter adopted the name of his office and became known as Walter Stewart. Thus, he is the first Stewart from whom all the names are descended. He was appointed Justicar of Scotland in 1230. Walter married to **Beatrix Gilchrist** of Angus, daughter of the Gilchrist, 4th Earl of Angus and his wife **Marjorie** who was a daughter of **Henry**

of Huntington. (See *Scotland*, Generation Twenty-four) Walter and Beatrix had the following children:

- **Alexander Stewart**, mentioned next.
 - **Margaret (Marjory, Isabel or Isabella) Stewart**, who married her cousin **Neil, 2nd Earl of Carrick** (See Generation Five)
 - **Marjory, Countess of Carrick** who married **Robert Bruce**. (See *Scotland*, Generation Twenty-eight) Their son was Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland.
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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beatrix (Elizabeth) Stewart • Christian Stewart • John Stewart • Robert Stewart | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sybella Stewart • Walter Stewart, Earl of Menteth • William Stewart |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Generation Seven

Alexander Stewart, 4th High Steward of Scotland

Born in 1214

Died in 1283

Alexander attended St. Louis of France to the Holy War; he joined the party of King Henry III of England. He was the principal commander under King Alexander III at the Battle of Largs October 2, 1263 when the Scottish army defeated the Norwegians. He received from Alexander III a grant of the Barony of Garlies in Galloway on November 30, 1263. In 1264 he invaded the Isle of Man.

Alexander Stewart married to Jean MacRorie, daughter and heiress of James MacRorie, Lord of Bute and Arrah, son of Angus MacRorie, Lord of Bute. They had the following children:

- **James Stewart**, mentioned next.
- John Stewart of Bonkyl who died at the Battle of Falkirk on July 22, 1298 fighting for Sir William Wallace. John Stewart married Margaret de Bonkle, daughter and heiress of Sir Alexander of Bonkle. Their daughter:
 - Isabel Stewart who married Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray; their daughter:
 - Agnes Randolph, Countess of Dunbar who was known as “Black Agnes”. She defended the Castle of Dunbar and repulsed the English under the Earl of Salisbury in 1338. Mistress of the strategic Dunbar Castle, controlling the coastal route to Edinburgh, she took charge in 1337 when the Earl of Salisbury besieged it. The English had a battering ram, “the Sow”, covered by a wooden roof. Agnes had a large stone dropped through the roof, scattering the men beneath. When her brother, in English custody, was brought in front of the castle and threatened with death, she scorned them, saying if he died, she would be the Earl of Moray as well as the Countess of Dunbar. On June 10, 1338, the English gave up and raised the seige. (David Ross, *Scotland: History of a Nation*, pg. 101(Edinburgh, 2000), page 101)
- Elizabeth Stewart who married Sir William, 3rd Lord of Douglas

Generation Eight

James Stewart, 5th High Steward of Scotland

Born in 1243

Died on July 16, 1309

In 1286 James Stewart was chosen as one of six Regents of Scotland. During the Wars of Scottish Independence, he at first submitted to King Edward. However, he joined Sir William Wallace, after whose defeat he joined Robert the Bruce. James married to **Egidia de Burgh** (See *Bigod*, Generation Seven) and they had the following children:

- Andrew Stewart who was the eldest son but died before his father.
- **Walter Stewart**, mentioned next.
- Sir John Stewart, killed at Dundalk, 1318
- Sir James Stewart of Durrisdere, d.s.p. (died without issue)
- Egidia Stewart

Generation Nine

Walter Stewart, 6th High Steward of Scotland

Born in 1293

Died on April 9, 1326

Walter married in 1315 to Princess Marjorie Bruce, daughter of Robert the Bruce. (See *Scotland: Generation Thirty*) Princess Marjory Bruce died on March 2, 1316, the same day her son was born. Although heavily pregnant, Marjorie went for a ride on her horse and either fell or was thrown off. She went into labour and her only child, Robert, was born by ceasarian section.

- **Robert Stuart**, King Robert II of Scotland, born March 2, 1316 (See *Scotland: Generation Thirty-one*)

Walter re-married to Isabel Graham, a sister of Sir John Graham of Abercorn.

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