

The Arbroath Chronicle

Newsletter of the Order of the
First Scottish War of Independence, 1296-1320



Fall 2025 – Volume 1, Issue 1

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Fall 2025

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Dear Members,

I can't tell you how excited I am about our new Society! As I said at our meeting, when I found that one of my ancestors had signed the Declaration of Arbroath, I had no idea what that was. I had never heard of it. Then when I started investigating, I discovered it was a letter signed by the Scottish Nobles asking the Pope to recognize Scotland as independent from England and Robert the Bruce as king. It seemed to me that document was just as important as the Magna Charta or the Declaration of Independence. Other people agreed with me and our Society was born.

Your officers have worked very hard to get us up and running. We opened membership up to the public on May 1, 2025, and I understand we have almost 60 members. As a result, we have been recognized by Founders Fellowship. We had our first Annual Meeting by Zoom on June 23, and all future meetings will also be held by Zoom on June 23 - the anniversary of the decisive Battle of Bannockburn.

If you have not yet checked out our website, please do so. Alex Bannerman has done an outstanding job. He has not only listed the battles included in the First War of Scottish Independence, but has also begun lists of who fought at each of those battles. It is an educational experience, and I'm sure you will find many ancestors for whom you can do supplements. I know he is constantly adding people to the list as he finds them.

This is our first Newsletter, and your Herald has worked very hard on it. Please consider writing a short bio on your ancestor and submit it to Josh so he can include it in future issues.



Sunny Hayes, President



FALL 2025

Dear Members and Friends of the Order,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our semi-annual newsletter — dedicated to celebrating our shared heritage, deepening our understanding of the First Scottish War of Independence, and highlighting the importance of historic preservation.

In this first edition, readers will find features on prominent historical figures and a major battle from the war, an introduction to our Founding Council officers, insights into genealogical research, recommendations for heritage books and websites, a call for preservation efforts, and an invitation for your contributions.

Whether you are newly admitted or a founding member, your participation is essential. Members are encouraged to submit their own content for future editions of *The Arbroath Chronicle*, focusing on their qualifying ancestor, an interesting resource related to the First Scottish War of Independence, or preservation efforts worthy of the Order's attention. Please send your contributions to me at jtuck9048@gmail.com.

Let this newsletter serve not only as a record of our history but also as a call to action for today. This is your Order, and this publication is your voice. Together, we carry forward the memory of those who fought for liberty and identity—preserving their legacy through scholarship, service, and shared pride.

In the footsteps of our ancestors, we find not only where we come from, but who we are meant to become.

- Anonymous

Yours in fellowship and heritage,

Joshua Tuck, Herald



Founding Officers

PRESIDENT

Sonja “Sunny” Hayes received a Bachelors degree, a Masters degree, and a Certificate of Advanced Study from the College of Business at Northern Illinois University. She taught business classes in high school for several years and then went to the community college where she taught court reporting. She also became an educational consultant for the National Court Reporters Association, evaluating court reporting schools and giving workshops and seminars at their conventions. She received the Illinois Court Reporters Association’s Award of Excellence for Outstanding Educator. She retired in 1999, and she and her husband Bill traveled extensively, visiting 72 countries and 49 states before his death in 2009. At that time Sunny went back to the genealogy she began in 1980 and became involved in many genealogical societies. Besides being a Founder of the Order of First Scottish War of Independence, she also was a Founder of Descendants of Miners. She has 3 daughters, 6 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. Her qualifying ancestor is William, 3rd Earl of Ross, via her gateway ancestor Maria Duncanson of NY.



VICE PRESIDENT



Jane Routt Power hails from Fort Worth, Texas. She earned her B.S. in Education, History, and English from North Texas State University and began her career as Director of Human Resources at Garrett Electronics, a global leader in metal detector manufacturing. For over 25 years, she has owned and operated J&J Power Communications, a certified woman- and minority-owned promotional marketing company.

A dedicated genealogist and lineage society leader, Jane co-founded and has led multiple organizations, including Founders Fellowship, Crown and Sceptre, and the Descendants of Early Postmasters (as President General and Chaplain General). A passionate educator, she serves as a professional genealogy lecturer and frequent media guest. She is also a Fellow of Scottish Antiquaries and the National Association of Parliamentarians. She was named a member of the prestigious Hereditary Society Community - Class of 2015.

Her qualifying ancestor is Edward II, King of England, via her gateway ancestor William Farrar of VA.

SECRETARY

Karen Marie Wills grew up in the great agricultural states of Wisconsin and Indiana. Her very first job was harvesting produce at the tender age of six, which she continued to do until entering junior high school. She joined the middle-school color guard and the drum and bugle corps, regularly competing against other schools. In high school she was involved in the Girls' Athletic Association. After high school, she raised a family while attending Mid-State Technical Institute where she took an Associates Degree in Business Administration.

Karen's interest in her ancestry began at an early age, often hearing about her mother's people from her grandparents and great-grandparents. Because near family members on her father's side were very few who knew almost nothing, her curiosity was piqued to discover as much as possible on both sides of her family. She joined her first lineage society in 2004, and it was another eight years before she even knew there were others. She now belongs to nearly 60, and holds office in many such organizations, most recently becoming the Governor of First Families of Massachusetts and President General of the Order of Descendants of Native Americans and Friends.

Karen's other interests have included photography and gardening, and teaching 2nd and 3rd grade Sunday School, and she currently serves on her church's Gifts, Wills, and Memorials Committee. She also enjoys traveling, learning new things, and participating in community events as a cardio drummer. Most importantly, she is very proud to declare her status as a "Hockey GG."

Her ancestor is Sir Humphrey Beauchamp, Kt., via her Gateway Ancestor, Agnes Harris Spencer Edwards of Connecticut.



TREASURER

Susan Young Gray was born in Lynn, Massachusetts, to Norman Belmont Young and Elizabeth Arlene Bolton. She was married first to the late Glasco Smith and now to Larry Zieglar Gray, Sr. She has one son, Matthew Thaddeus Smith. Matthew graduated from Swarthmore College with a BA, with a double major in Mathematics and Education. He graduated from Stanford University with an MA in Education. Sue received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of Maryland. She retired from the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission after a 35-year career. She started as an intern after college and retired as a Senior Program Analyst. Sue was recently recognized by the Hereditary Society Community with Honorary Membership for the Class of 2025. Sue is a member of 68 lineage societies and is a member of the National Gavel Society and Founders Fellowship. She currently serves as the Governor of the Order of the Descendants of El Cid, Deputy Governor of Plymouth Hereditary Society, and is the treasurer of the Hereditary Order of the First Families of Massachusetts, The Order of First Families of Connecticut, 1633-1662, The IX, Legion of Vikings and Valkyries, Scions of Freedom Signers, and Order of the First Scottish War of Independence, 1296-1320.



Sue is a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Maine Genealogical Society, Essex (MA) Society of Genealogists, Hancock (ME) Historical Society, Hancock County (ME) Genealogical Society, and Montgomery County (MD) Genealogical Society.

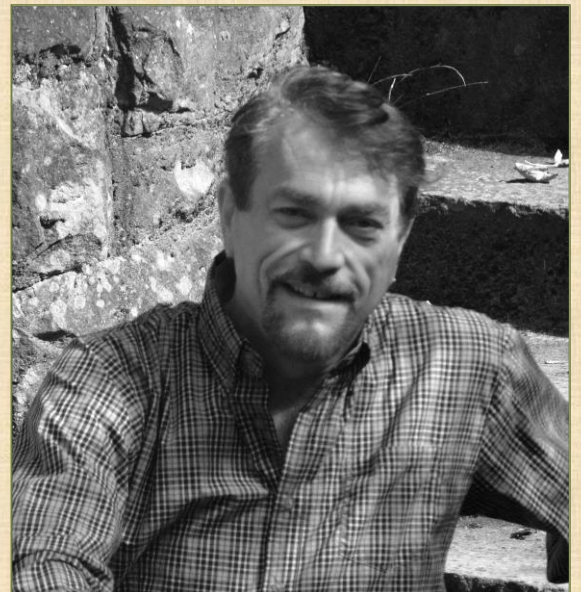
She has documented her lineage to six gateway ancestors and has 12 Mayflower passengers. She also enjoys researching for others and working with DNA results, managing over 25 DNA kits for family and friends. Her qualifying ancestor is Paine de Tibetot, via her gateway ancestor Anne Derehaugh, of Massachusetts.

GENEALOGIST

Alex was born in 1960 in North Dakota, the eldest of four boys. He was previously married, and has two daughters, Jennifer and Elizabeth, and two granddaughters, Chyann and Madeleine. He currently resides in West Virginia.

Alex's professional career was as a Legal Secretary, working first for the FBI (in the Latent Fingerprint Section, the Intelligence Division, the Director's Office, and the Foreign Liaison Unit). On leaving the Bureau, he continued his career in the private legal sector.

Nowadays, he occupies himself as a professional historian and genealogist, specializing in New England families in the 17th and 18th centuries. His love of genealogy stretches back to the age of seven, and he has continued with genealogical research ever since. With eight published genealogical works to his credit, he also has been published in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* and several other genealogy-focused American journals.



He is founding editor of *Executive Papers*, a magazine that addresses the ancestry of the Presidents and First Ladies of the United States, and of *The Opinion*, a similar publication pointed at the ancestry of the Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. His most recent work, published in October 2025 (yes, this month!), is *Ancestors of American Presidents and First Ladies*, researched and co-authored with noted genealogist Gary Boyd Roberts and with Patricia Wasilik, another of our members. In the lineage society community, Alex has founded, co-founded, or reorganized more than two dozen societies and belongs to 90, holding office in many. He was recognized by the Hereditary Society Community for his achievements in the Class of 2014.

In addition to genealogy, Alex's interests extend to teaching dance, recording and performing in public, and acting. His dedication to animal welfare included assisting in the establishment of the Braxton County Animal Shelter in West Virginia. To all of these must also be added his love of photography, numerous pieces of which have been published in *The Washington Blade* (newspaper), on Christmas cards, a entire calendar, and even the dust-jacket of an historical book. He is working on future publication of a collection of 50 years of his work.

His qualifying ancestor is Sir Paine de Tibetot, via his Gateway Ancestor, Anne Derehaugh of Massachusetts.

CHAPLAIN



Dr. Lance Rose was born and raised in Rochester, Pennsylvania. He obtained his B.S. at Geneva College and his Master's in Chemistry at the Pennsylvania State University. He then graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, and entered private practice in Beaver and Rochester, Pennsylvania. He is Fellow of the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists.

He has served as President for several professional societies, including the Beaver County Dental Society, the Western Pennsylvania Dental Society, and the Pitt Dental Alumni Association. Dr. Rose and his wife have been married for over 30 years, and they have four daughters and six grandchildren...with a seventh on the way.

His qualifying ancestor is Walter Stewart, 6th Steward of Scotland, through his gateway ancestor James Agnew of Pennsylvania.

MARSHAL

Susan Erlick, otherwise known as Sue or Susie, is the current Marshal General. She is from Gary, Indiana, and currently lives in Naperville, Illinois. Sue has a BA in History from Purdue University and an MLS from Indiana University, specializing in Children's Literature.

She is a member of several other lineage societies and holds positions at the national, state, and chapter levels. Besides being a founder of The Order of the First Scottish Wars of Independence 1296-1320, Sue was the founder and first Senior President of the Aaron Miner Society, Children of the American Revolution.



Husband Lance is a retired CPA and president of his own financial consulting company and is currently a science fiction author. They have two sons. Dave and his wife, Dana, live in Virginia with son Jackson, and Jason lives in Illinois with wife Jessica, daughters Brooke and Ashlyn, son Colton, 2 dogs, 6 cats, 1 rat, 1 bearded dragon, a gecko, a rabbit, 6 hens, and many fish. Sue's family loves to read, watch movies, travel, and cheer on the Indiana University Hoosiers basketball teams.

Her qualifying ancestor is Hugh le Despenser, through her gateway ancestor Anne Lovelace of Virginia.

HERALD



Dr. Joshua Alan Tuck is the Chairman of the Department of Surgery at LECOM Medical Center in Erie, Pennsylvania. He is a fellowship-trained orthopedic sports surgeon who has been in practice with LECOM Health for the past twelve years.

He is a 2004 graduate of the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. He also holds a Master of Business Administration, (concentration in Healthcare Administration), from the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts, and a Master of Science in Health Care Delivery from Dartmouth College.

As a former flight surgeon in the United States Navy, he served in the Middle East during Operation Iraqi Freedom, completing his military service as a Lieutenant Commander. He was a member of the NASA Shuttle Operations Medical Support Team and served as a flight surgeon for the landing of the shuttle Endeavor mission, (STS-118), in 2007.

Dr. Tuck and his wife have been married for 23 years, and they have one son. His qualifying ancestor is Sir Marmaduke Thweng, through his gateway ancestor John Sanborn of New Hampshire.

Lion of Scotland

The Life of King Robert “The Bruce”

by Joshua Tuck

King Robert I, known to history as *Robert the Bruce* — reigned from 1306 until his death in June 1329. He led Scotland to independence through brilliant military strategy, unwavering courage, and diplomatic skill. His legacy remains enshrined in Scottish identity, carved in stone at Bannockburn, and echoed in the Declaration of Arbroath.

Early Life and the Road to Rebellion

Robert the Bruce was born on July 11, 1274, likely at Turnberry Castle in Ayrshire. The Bruce family claimed both Anglo-Norman and Gaelic ancestry, and Robert’s grandfather had once been a claimant to the Scottish throne. From a young age, Bruce was raised in a complex political environment marked by England’s increasing intervention in Scottish affairs.

Following the forced abdication of King John Balliol in 1296 by Edward I of England, Scotland was thrust into chaos.

Initially oscillating between sides, Robert emerged as a staunch nationalist after the murder of his political rival John Comyn in 1306. That same year, he was crowned King of Scots at Scone — a bold and defiant act that declared open rebellion.



Robert the Bruce Statue at Bannockburn

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**Bruce Crowned King of Scots
by the Countess of Buchan**

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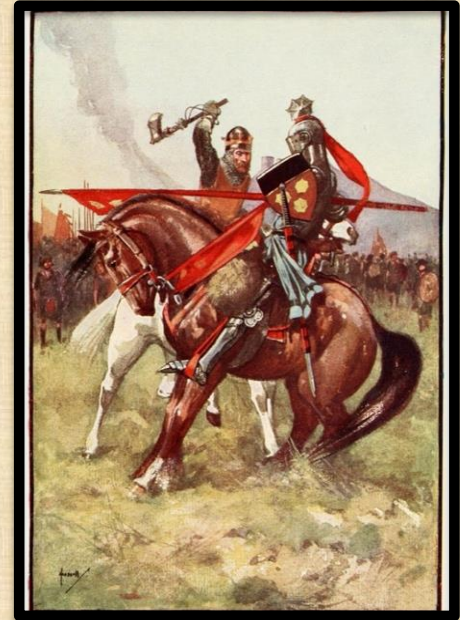
The War for Independence and the Battle of Bannockburn

The early years of Bruce's reign were marked by guerrilla warfare and personal loss. Excommunicated by the Church and driven into hiding, Bruce slowly rebuilt his support across Scotland. By 1314, his leadership culminated in the pivotal Battle of Bannockburn. Facing a much larger English force led by Edward II, Bruce's army used terrain, tactics, and morale to win one of the most decisive victories in Scottish history.



Bruce Addresses His Troops Before the Battle

credit: Alamy; at the-past.com/Public Domain, accessed 19 Feb 2025



"Bruce brought his axe crashing down upon the head of [Henry] Bohun" credit:

John Hassall (1868-1948), illustrator, in Henrietta E. Marshall (1867-1941), Scotland's Story: A History of Scotland for Boys and Girls (1907), p. 174

Legend tells of Bruce inspiring his troops with a personal duel against an English knight before the battle — a moment that became emblematic of his courage and resolve. Bannockburn turned the tide of war and affirmed Bruce's authority as King

Diplomacy, Death, and Enduring Legacy

Bruce spent the rest of his reign consolidating power and securing international recognition. His greatest diplomatic victory came in 1328 with the Treaty of Edinburgh–Northampton, in which England officially recognized Scotland's independence.

Robert the Bruce died on June 7, 1329, at Cardross. His body was buried at Dunfermline Abbey, while his heart, as per his wishes, was taken on crusade and later interred at Melrose Abbey. To Scots, he remains both a warrior and a statesman, a hero who transformed a rebellion into a sovereign nation.



Bruce Statue at Edinburgh Castle
used by permission



**Dunfermline Abbey –
Resting Place of Robert the Bruce**
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index.php?curid=447384](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=447384)



**Burial Site of Robert the Bruce's Heart - Melrose
Abbey, Roxburghshire, Scotland**
In the public domain at
commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=151462004

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- G.W.S. Barrow, "Robert Bruce and the Community of the Realm of Scotland" (Edinburgh University Press, 1988).
- Britannica: "Robert the Bruce" (www.britannica.com/biography/Robert-the-Bruce)
- World History Encyclopedia: "Robert the Bruce" (www.worldhistory.org/Robert_the_Bruce)

The Two Edwards: A Hammer and an Heir of a War Unfinished

by Joshua Tuck



King Edward I in Westminster Abbey

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w/index.php?curid=75816295](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=75816295)



King Edward II Receives the Crown

British Library website. In the public
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org/w/index.php?curid=20987325](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=20987325)

The Two Edwards

No story of the First Scottish War of Independence is complete without understanding the kings who sought to suppress it. On the English side, the conflict spanned two reigns — that of King Edward I, the hardened conqueror known as the 'Hammer of the Scots,' and his son King Edward II, whose controversial leadership helped secure Scotland's survival. Their contrasting personalities and military fortunes offer a powerful lens into England's struggle to subdue a nation unwilling to kneel.

Edward I: The Hammer Falls

Edward I (1239–1307), also known as 'Longshanks' for his height, was a formidable king and one of England's most effective medieval monarchs. His reign was marked by administrative reform, legal innovation, and military conquest. After subduing Wales in the 1280s, Edward turned his attention to Scotland. Following a disputed royal succession, he forced King John Balliol to abdicate in 1296 and declared himself overlord of Scotland.

Edward's campaign in Scotland was relentless. He installed English garrisons, demanded oaths of loyalty, and declared war on all who resisted. Wallace's uprising in 1297 stunned Edward, but he responded forcefully, defeating Wallace at the Battle of Falkirk in 1298. He then pursued rebel leaders across the country and captured key Scottish fortresses. However, he never fully subdued the Scots. In 1305, Wallace was captured and executed — but rebellion persisted.

Edward died in 1307 while marching north to continue his campaign. According to legend, he ordered his bones be carried at the head of future English armies until Scotland was conquered. An order that, like his ambition, went unfulfilled.



**Death site of King Edward I
at Burgh by Sands, England**

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Edward II: Discord and Decline

Edward II (1284–1327) inherited his father's throne but not his discipline or military prowess. More interested in personal relationships and courtly luxuries than warfare, Edward quickly alienated his barons, particularly through his favoritism toward court companions like Piers Gaveston. Political divisions at home weakened England's response to Scotland's continued resistance.

In 1314, Edward II led a massive army north to break the siege of Stirling Castle — a critical moment in the war. However, at the Battle of Bannockburn, Edward's forces were decisively defeated by Robert the Bruce. It was one of the worst military disasters in English medieval history and marked the beginning of the end for Edward's authority.

Edward's reign spiraled into civil conflict. He was eventually deposed by his wife, Queen Isabella, and her ally Roger Mortimer in 1327. That same year, Edward was murdered under mysterious and gruesome circumstances while imprisoned at Berkeley Castle.



**King Edward II
with Piers Gaveston**
by Marcus Stone, 1872.-
Kunst für Alle
In the public domain at
commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10812477



Effigy of King Edward II, Gloucester Cathedral

In the public domain at commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=31221892

Legacy of the Two Edwards

King Edward I left a legacy of strength and ambition — feared by enemies and revered by English chroniclers. King Edward II, in contrast, is remembered for indecision, defeat, and downfall. Yet their combined failure to conquer Scotland became the foundation of Scotland's independence and national identity.

The memory of these two kings still echoes across the Anglo-Scottish border: in ruined castles, ancient chronicles, and the defiant words of the Declaration of Arbroath.

References

- Britannica: "Edward I" www.britannica.com/search?query=Edward+I
- Britannica: "Edward II" www.britannica.com/search?query=edward+II
- Wikipedia: "Edward I" en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_I_of_England
- Wikipedia: "Edward II" en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_II_of_England

Ancestor Spotlight: Sir John de Menteith

by Sunny Hayes



Seal of John de Menteith

W. Fraser, ed., *The Red Book of Menteith*, 2 vols. (1888), 2:461, fig. 3.

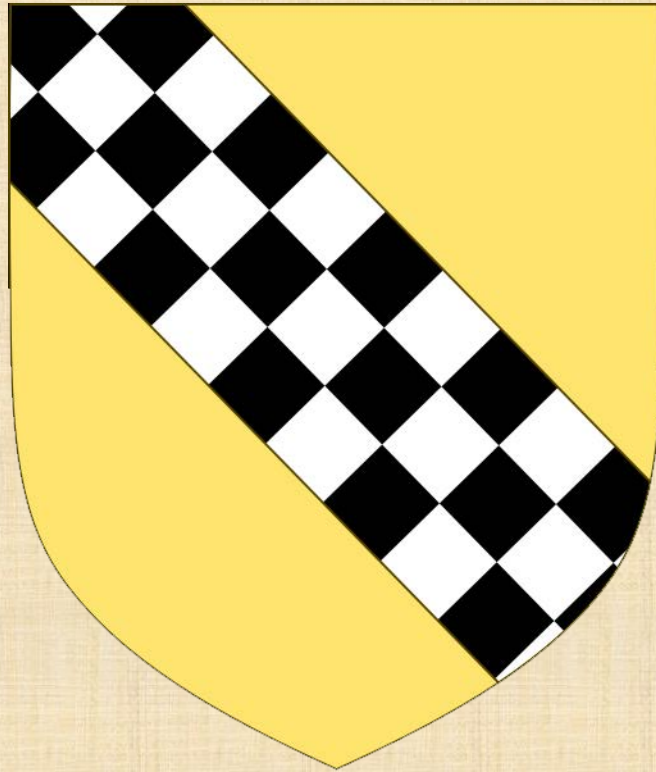
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I have always felt if you can't have a famous ancestor, you might as well have an infamous one. Such is my John de Menteith. John, with his older brother Alexander, fought on the Scottish side in the Battle of Dunbar in 1296. Both were captured. Alexander was released after swearing fealty to Edward I of England. John remained a prisoner at Nottingham Castle in England until August 1297, when he took an oath to fight for the English in Flanders.

In 1304, Edward appointed John warden of the castle, town, and sheriffdom of Dumbarton. As sheriff, John is alleged to have conspired with Aymer de Valence and others to capture Sir William Wallace and hand him over to the English, for which he was awarded land and titles. As a result of his actions, he was labeled "Fause Menteith," or Menteith the treacherous. As we know, Wallace was hanged, drawn, and quartered in London as a result.

In 1306 John received the Earldom of Lennox from Edward, as well as the position of warden of the castle, town, and sheriffdom of Dumbarton for life. Edward asked John to join him in fighting against Robert the Bruce; however, John instead abandoned his earldom of Lennox and joined the Scottish side. King Robert I of Scotland rewarded him with large grants. John's English lands were forfeited for his treason.

In 1316 John was commissioned with Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, to treat on behalf of Robert the Bruce for a truce with the English. He was one of the signatories to the Declaration of Arbroath sent by the barons of Scotland to Pope John XXII, asking that the independence of Scotland be recognized. So, the next time you watch *Braveheart* and you see the guy that betrayed William Wallace, please remember that's my ancestor!



**Coat of Arms of Sir John Menteith
of Ruskie and Knapdale (c. 1275-1329)**

In the public domain at
commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=61089888

References:

- Thomas Tout, "Menteith, John de" in *Dictionary of National Biography*, vol. 37 (1894), pp. 255-57
- Wikipedia "John de Menteith" at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_de_Menteith

What's Your Story?

Members are encouraged to research their own noteworthy ancestors and submit a brief (1-2 page), biography of their lives and deeds for inclusion in *The Arbroath Chronicle*. Submissions should be sent in WORD format to jtuck9048@gmail.com.

Genealogist's Corner

“How can I minimize my research time and still maximize my results?”

That is perhaps the most frequent question we face as researchers of our ancestry. I field this question frequently, from applicants to this (or any) royalty-, aristocracy-, or gentry-focused society, and even from existing members attempting to find additional ancestors to supplement their membership. Well, believe it or not, it's simpler than one might realize, and this guidance can apply not only to OFSWI, but also to any royalty-, aristocracy-, or gentry-focused society.

The first thing to consider is the timeframe in which the qualifying ancestors must have lived in order to participate in the events. For OFSWI, our focus should be on ancestors born during roughly the years 1240 through 1350. If your ancestor lived *and died* during this timeframe, you're in the correct era, and if any of them had service, you're likely to discover it. Younger participant ancestors will have been born in the 1270s to 1290s in order to participate in the events that occurred between 1296 and 1320, likely having died by 1340-1350. Older participants – those born from about 1240 through the 1280s – likely will be the ones who participated in only the first few skirmishes. Though not written in stone, these parameters minimize the number of ancestor possibilities, and, in turn, assist in reducing research time.

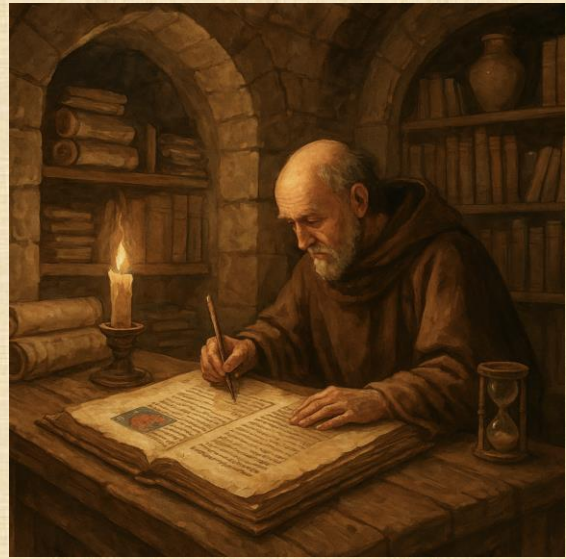
Source materials for tracking down prospective ancestors include Douglas Richardson's *Royal Ancestry* (5 vols., 2013), *Magna Carta Ancestry* (4 vols., 2011), and *Plantagenet Ancestry* (3 vols., 2011). Thomas Wright authored *The Roll of Arms of the Princes, Barons, and Knights who Attended King Edward I to the Siege of Caerlaverock in 1300* (1864), and there are some battle rolls for other Scottish conflicts that may shed light on the participation of some of our ancestors in more than one event. For those researchers who “love to dig,” the *Parliamentary Writs of Military Summons* (3 vols., 1827-1830) provide a wealth of opportunity for discovery. Sir James Balfour Paul, *The Scots Peerage* (9 vols.), Burke's *Extinct and Dormant Peerages* and his *Landed Gentry* occasionally serve useful for our purpose; and don't forget there are numerous websites, including especially, *Historic Environment Scotland* (at www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/), and occasionally, the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Also worth using is *wikipedia*, whose administrators have made enormous strides to make the site more comprehensive, and properly documented, having implemented stringent rules for contributors (I am one of those) to ensure that the information provided by the site is reliable.

Good luck, and happy researching!

Alex Bannerman, Genealogist



In the Scriptorium



Recommended Readings & Online Resources

Book Recommendations

1. G.W.S. Barrow, *Robert Bruce and the Community of the Realm of Scotland*. 4th ed. (Edinburgh University Press, 2005)
 - A definitive academic biography of Robert the Bruce, focusing on his political and military strategies in the context of medieval Scotland's social structures
2. M. Prestwich, *Edward I* (Yale University Press, 1997)
 - A rigorous and balanced look at the English monarch who launched the war against Scotland, this work offers detailed insight into Edward's policies and campaigns

Online Resources

1. **National Records of Scotland** – www.nrscotland.gov.uk
 - Scotland's central archive and genealogical research site, housing historical documents including birth, marriage, and death records dating back to the 1500s
2. **British Library Digital Manuscripts** – www.bl.uk/research/digitised-manuscripts/
 - Browse digitized medieval documents including royal charters, maps, and chronicles relevant to the Anglo-Scottish wars
3. **Historic UK** – www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/
 - Offers approachable overviews of key battles, figures, and medieval life in Britain, including features on Wallace, Bruce, and Edward I

Preserving Our Past



Dunfermline Abbey

In the public domain at

commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5239998

Robert the Bruce church facing 'eye-watering' bill

12 February 2025

www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd9q48gvwll0

Dunfermline Abbey: Guardians of Bruce's Resting Place

Built in the 11th century by Queen Margaret, Dunfermline Abbey is the historic resting site of King Robert the Bruce. As a 950-year-old treasure, the abbey draws more than 40,000 visitors each year, yet it now faces an “eye-watering” £8 million repair and upgrade bill.

- £4 million is urgently needed to ensure the structure remains wind- and watertight over the next 3–5 years.
- A second £4 million will fund modern improvements: accessible facilities, heating, lighting, flexible visitor spaces, and community use.

Reverend Dr. MaryAnn Rennie emphasizes that “congregations of buildings of national importance should not be solely responsible.” While public funding isn’t available, a JustGiving campaign has been started to rally community and heritage support.

Why It Matters

The abbey is often referred to as Scotland's Westminster Abbey — a national shrine of royal heritage

- It contains artifacts and architecture from Queen Margaret (11th c.) through Robert the Bruce (14th c.)
- Without repair, centuries of history could be lost — to the detriment of future scholarship and remembrance

Call to Action

Support the preservation of Scotland's historic treasures.

- Share the story of Dunfermline Abbey with friends and family.
- Consider donating to their *JustGiving* campaign:
www.justgiving.com/campaign/keepingheart
- Advocate for greater preservation funding through heritage groups and local government.



Robert the Bruce's Grave at Dunfermline Abbey
www.dunfermlinepress.com/news/15988185.event-mark-200th-anniversary-discovery-king-robert-bruces-tomb-dunfermline/

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- Dunfermline Abbey facing £8 million repair bill — **Scottish Construction Now**, Feb 12 2025
www.scottishconstructionnow.com/articles/dunfermline-abbey-facing-ps8m-repair-bill
- “Robert the Bruce Church Facing ‘eye-Watering’ £8m Repair Bill.” *BBC News*, BBC, 12 Feb. 2025
www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd9q48gvwll0

Where Steel Did Clash

The Battle of Bannockburn

Scotland's Greatest Victory for Independence

June 23–24, 1314

The Battle of Bannockburn was a turning point in the First War of Scottish Independence. Fought near Stirling on June 23–24, 1314, it marked a dramatic and improbable victory for the Scots, led by King Robert the Bruce, against a far larger English army under King Edward II.

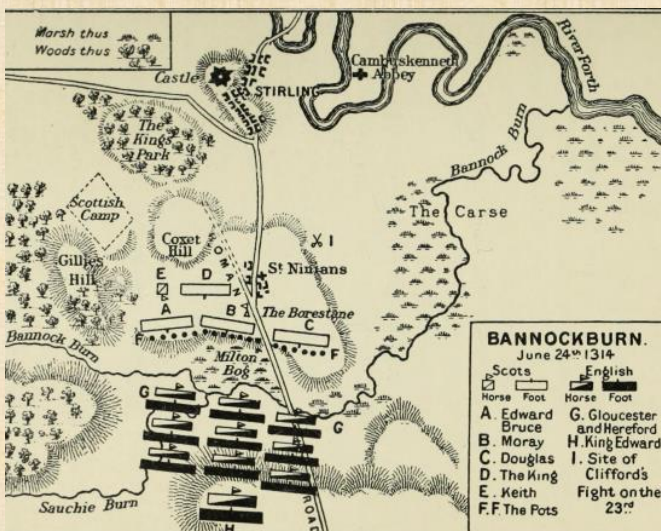
Key Figures

- King Robert the Bruce – Scottish monarch and military commander who personally killed Sir Henry de Bohun in single combat on the eve of battle.
- Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray – Bruce's nephew, led the Scottish left flank and executed brilliant tactics against English cavalry.
- James Douglas – Loyal commander known for fierce raids against English outposts.
- King Edward II – English king whose miscalculations and poor coordination doomed the English campaign.
- Sir Henry de Bohun – English knight famously slain by Bruce in a dramatic mounted duel.



The earliest-known image of the battle.
From the *Scotichronicon* (c. 1440)

M. Brown, *Bannockburn: The Scottish War and the British Isles, 1307-1323* (2008)



Battle of Bannockburn

C, Oman. *A History of the art of war, the middle ages from the fourth to the fourteenth century*. 1898.
Internet Archive Book Images -
commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=43528998

Tactics and Terrain

Bruce's forces, numbering around 6,000, were dwarfed by Edward's 15,000+ ever, the Scots chose their ground wisely: a narrow field near Bannockburn stream, hemmed in by marshland and woodland, which restricted the English cavalry's mobility.

Scottish spearmen formed disciplined schiltrons — circular spear walls — trained to hold fast under cavalry assault. The English forces, congested and disorganized, struggled to maneuver. On the second day, the Scots counterattacked decisively, forcing Edward to flee the field.

Legacy and Impact

Bannockburn was not merely a battlefield win—it was a symbolic triumph. It solidified Bruce’s leadership, demoralized England, and paved the way for the Declaration of Arbroath (1320), Scotland’s bold assertion of sovereignty.



Bannockburn Battlefield

In the public domain at commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=125683049



Bannockburn Victory Memorial In the public domain at commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=17476794

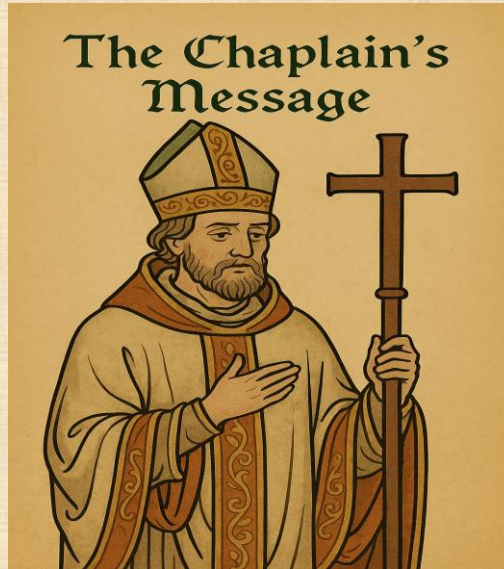
Visit the Site Today

The Bannockburn Heritage Centre near Stirling offers an immersive visitor experience, with interactive exhibits and a 3D battle simulation. The National Trust for Scotland maintains the site, and the monument of Robert the Bruce on horseback still stands tall.

- Location: Bannockburn, Stirling, FK7 0LJ, Scotland
- Website: <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/bannockburn>

References

- G.W.S. Barrow, “Robert Bruce and the Community of the Realm of Scotland” (Edinburgh University Press, 1988)
- Historic Environment Scotland: www.historicenvironment.scot
- National Trust for Scotland: www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/bannockburn
- Wikipedia “Battle of Bannockburn” en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Bannockburn



Invocation for Our Order

- Our Heavenly Father, we welcome you.

Please guide our thoughts and actions as we embark upon this new order. Help us to respectfully honor our predecessors who struggled and particularly those who eventually obtained what you have willed for all mankind, that is freedom and independence in all matters of faith and living. May we be civil and unbiased in our deliberations and in our works, and in all things recognize and honor You.

- Amen

Carla Lucille Whitehurst Odom

August 4, 1942 - June 3, 2025

With the absence of a necrology to report for this Order, may we take this time to recognize and humbly honor Mrs. Carla Whitehurst Odom.

Carla was instrumental in many of our efforts to join this and countless other such hereditary societies, for which she was a founder and/or leader. I am confident that most readers and members of our community knew Carla well and admired if not loved her.

God blessed Carla...and through her...all of us.

Let us offer our condolences to Carla's family and friends, but trust that they are comforted in knowing that Carla has rejoined her husband and that they are now both with their Lord and Savior.

- Amen

Lance Rose, Chaplain



Among Our Ranks



Join Our Order

THE FIRST SCOTTISH WAR OF INDEPENDENCE ran from 1296 through 1328, being closed by the Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton in the latter year. The battles identified all occurred between 1296 (Siege of Carlisle) and 1314 (Battle of Bannockburn). The Order has enlarged the qualifying period to include the years up to 1320 to encompass not only the military incursions, but also the Declaration of Arbroath. See the following page for the skirmishes and battles that comprised that War.

Membership is open to any U.S. citizen, male or female, aged 18 or older, of good moral character, whose ancestors participated in any of the 21 battles, sieges, or skirmishes comprising the First Scottish War of Independence, from April 1296 through June 1314, or served as signatories to the "Declaration of Arbroath." A qualifying ancestor may have fought on either side of the battle - Scotland or England - and the specific battle must be identified.

Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply for membership.

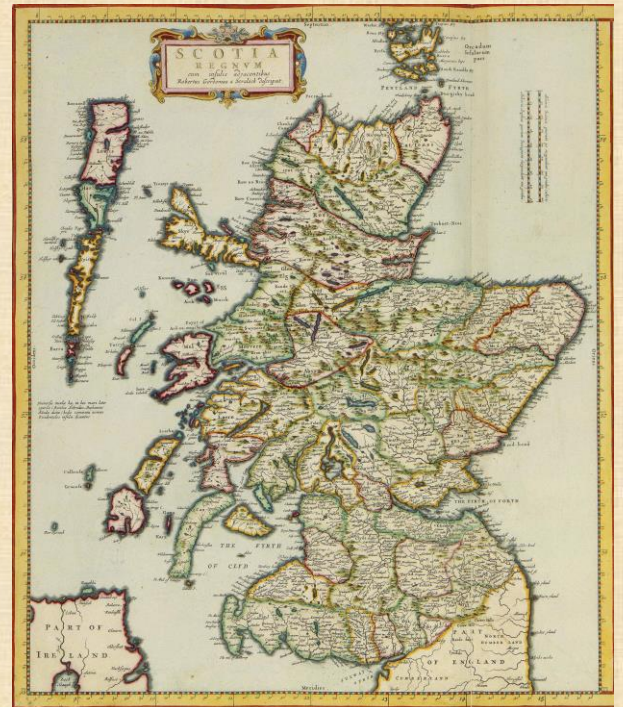
Charter Membership began on May 1, 2025 and will end November 30, 2025. Regular membership will commence after that time.

For more information, contact the Order's Genealogist,
Alexander Bannerman
ScottishWarOfIndependence@gmail.com
304-346-6646

Our Order is found on the internet at
www.ScottishWarOfIndependence.org

Qualifying Battles

26 March 1296	<i>Siege of Carlisle Castle</i>
30 March 1296	<i>Siege of Berwick Castle</i>
27 April 1296	<i>Battle of Dunbar</i>
1296	<i>Siege of Edinburgh Castle</i>
1296	<i>Siege of Harbottle Castle</i>
May 1297	<i>Battle of Lanark</i>
1297, 1300, 1303 and 1310	<i>Sieges at Dundee Castle</i>
11 Sep 1297	<i>Battle of Stirling Bridge</i>
22 July 1298	<i>Battle of Falkirk</i>
1299	<i>First Siege of Lochmaben Castle</i>
May 1300	<i>Invasion of Annandale and Galloway</i>
July 1300	<i>Siege of Caerlaverock Castle</i>
Aug 1301	<i>Battle of Bothwell Castle</i>
Sep 1301	<i>Second Siege of Lochmaben Castle</i>
Nov 1302 - May 1303	<i>Ambush at Edinburgh, and the English Marches on Perth, Aberdeen, and Dunfermline</i>
1303	<i>Battle of Roslin</i>
May 1304	<i>Siege of Stirling Castle</i>
5 Aug 1305	<i>Battle of Robroyston</i>
19 June 1306	<i>Battle of Methven</i>
23-24 June 1314	<i>Battle of Bannockburn</i>
April/May 1320	<i>Declaration of Arbroath</i>



General Map of Scotland

by Joan Blaeu (1598-1673) from the collections of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek National Library of the Netherlands Public Domain, at commons.wikimedia.org/

*Note – This list may be updated. Check the website for the latest version, at www.scottishwarofindependence.org

The Final Word



The Declaration of Arbroath -1320
 (Tynninghame copy) National Archives of Scotland
 In the public domain at
commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=7392964

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- June 24, 2026 via Zoom (time TBD). More information and a zoom link will be released to the membership once meeting plans are finalized.

The Arbroath Chronicle is the semi-annual electronic newsletter of the *Order of the First Scottish War of Independence, 1296-1320*, and is released every April and October. Submissions for inclusion in the newsletter must be received by the end of February for consideration in the spring publication, or by the end of August for consideration in the fall publication. Submissions should be in WORD format and directed to the Herald of the Order at jtuck9048@gmail.com.

The Order of the First Scottish War of Independence is a charitable and educational organization, committed to the study and preservation of medieval history and the verification of genealogies of descent from that period.

