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1286 – 1314

Let me tell ye a tale, of swords and chainmail, and the independence wars, When successions doubt was brought about as Alexander fell off his horse Well a horses kicks in twelve eighty six cast a shadow over the crown On that fateful day, the maid of Norway left her home in finest wee gown. Well the ship that set sail did eventually fail to bring her across the sea On the briny drink that ship it did sink, so it ended in tragedy.

But life goes on, and the mornings dawn saw claims for the crown of the queen, Each claimed a bloodline, to the now deceased quine, and their number did reach thirteen. Well it was such a mess that the guardians confess they didn't know which one to choose, And so in the end, a messenger they did send, to tell proud King Edward the news. Well when he first heard by the messengers word of squabbling nobles up north, He sent a decree "I'll be there instantly" And he set off for all he was worth. For most recently he'd been filled up with glee when conquering land known as Wales. Fierce dragons lived there, he was warned not to dare, but those monsters lived only in tales. And at a glance he could see there's a chance to add to his kingdom Scotland He'd choose a weakling to be the new King or at least that's what proud Edward planned!

Well the numerous queue was soon down to two as King Edward upon them let loose. Two men with strong claims, both destined for fame, John Balliol and Robert the Bruce. Well The Bruce he was strong, with a heritage long, in Carrick when his family rule. And John Balliol had no backbone at all, he was a weak man and was also a fool. Now Kind Edward could see it be his decree to decide which claimant got the crown, And surprising them all, he named Balliol, which caused all others to frown. And for all his part, Balliol on his heart, declared to do all that he could To keep Scotland free, land of Liberty, from the clutches of Edward so shrewd.

So in Twelve ninety two there's a bit of a do, a right knees up at old Palace Scone. Such consternation, King John's coronation sitting on destinies stone. Well he ruled with a smile, at least for a while, in the safety of Scotland's great fort. Until from Bordeaux, a wine merchants crow, o'er unpaid bills brought the King to Court. Cause King Edward sent word, that now as overlord, Balliol must fo as he said. Dropping manys a jaw, in England's court of law, Ed said that the bills must be paid! And now undermined by a tyrant unkind And robbed of monarchy power When Edward he met Balliol was upset, so he huffed and he grumped and did glower. Then in twelve ninety six, with surreptitious tricks, French allies met Scots hopes now risen When King Edward found out, he ragged all about, caught King John, and threw him in Prison! Then travelling far, to the land of Dunbar, the huge English army marched in. Nervous mounted knights ran away from their fights and allowed Edwards army to win.

Now Scotland was low, and with nowhere to go, continued to suffer great loss. As the English were freed, to commit acts of greed, some great Scots became very cross. And one of these men, a hero few men ken, was a noble named Andrew de Moray. He has his own way, controlled all the north o' he Tay, and soon headed south in a hurry. And there he did meet a man whose great feat was to sherriff Hazelrigg. His name was William Wallace, he hates the king callous, and also stands seven feet big. They joined armies together and hid in the heather as English crossed o'er the ridge. And we'll never forgot at which battle they met, yes, the great battle of Stirling bridge. As the Scots all leapt out and charged with no doubt down towards the English host, Their numbers were few, but they knew what to do, fight to thirds English army at most. On the bridge they were stuck and some cursing their luck as the Scots fell upon them with glee. With more troops at their backs and Scots pressed in the attack, there was no room to fight or to flee. By the end of the day, it was easy to say that the Scots had won the fight. And although it was risky they all drank their whiskey, and partied on into the night.

Now things had turned in a land that yearned simply to have its own king. Times often heard in the tales of the bard and the legendary songs that they sing. But King Edward was mad at the scoundrels who had inflicted that terrible loss. So he readied himsel' to head north as well and show these Scots he was the boss! And so he set off like a rich English toff and arrived in the town of Falkirk Scottish army he found and growling like a hound set about them with sword and with dirk. As the English in rushed the Scots army was crushed and once more their nobles did flee, And Edward was proud and he shouted out loud "Mankey Scots, your King shall be mine!" Now, for a year, maybe two, there was not much to do, as the Scots suffered grief and more grief. Then in thirteen oh five Wallace captured alive, by the treacherous Sir John Montieth. In shackles he's bound, and was sent all around, the country for all to see. A man at the time, whose solitary crime, his desire just to see Scotland free. Well his burly Scots brawn, was hung and then drawn, quartered and sent to lands end. And this brutally cruel executions the fuel for great Wallace's ageless legend.

Now, Balliol was ne'er freed, and the Bruce he was deid, and it seemed Edwards work was now done. For who could oppose, Edwards proud rose? Who of course but the Bruces own son! Or another young man who was called John Comyn. Of two brothers he's known as the red. Meeting in Greyfriars church, at him the Bruce did lurchm and then left his own rival for dead. So in thirteen oh six with most craven of tricks, yes, murders a terrible thing. With time plodding on, he rushed back to scone, and there he declared "I'm the King!" Now Edward did rage, and declared he would wage a war on the treacherous Scot. But in thirteen oh seven, he shipped off to heaven, (or more likely it's hell that he got!) So his son Edward Two took the throne as he grew to fill the boots of

Edward the first, No warrior was he, a tough task it would be, for his strategic plans were the worst. In thirteen ten, he took all his men, up north for his first real campaign. But try as he might, he found no-one to fight, and also so little to gain.

And so now at last, in my tale of times passed I'll tell of Scotland's finest hour. Battle of Bannockburn, where the tide it would turn and free us from King Edwards power. Now King Robert had said, to his brother called Ed, that they couldn't meet English in battle. And so great plans they laid for a Northumberland raid. And they set off to rustle some cattle. With the English kept busy, and all in a tizzy, chasing Scots shadows and ghosts, they never did meet, as Scots nimble of feet, avoided the great English hosts. Brother Edward said loud to gathering crowd, with chivalrous mannerly smiles. "We'll take Stirling Castle, without any hassle lest an army comes within three miles!" Now Edward mark Two, knew just what to do, and he gathered his army to leave. And he headed due north, for all he was worth, Stirling castle he'd try to relieve. Well Robert the Bruce, was stuck with this truce, from his brother the chivalrous ass. Though he turned the air blue, all he had left to do, was to cut England off at the pass. In the chill morning air, he set off to prepare, the site where the battle would be. A moral boosting thing, he ordered men bring, The Monymusk Reliquary. Now supported by God, and not thinking it odd, to carry an ancient saints bone With confidence high, and the battle now nigh, Scots went to save our Roberts throne. So men armed with spear for all they held dear, fought in the great formation Schiltrum. And men upon horse, rode o'er the course and killed archers where ere they found them. And the formation spear, brought the Englishmen fear, as it drove into them on a wedge Begun a killing spree did the highlanders free now to swing their axes in the swedge! Edward Two ran away thus surrendering the day And giving the Scots Victory. A result that should be now ensuring we're free, Well, at least until sixteen oh three.

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The Medieval Arms and Armour

Swords:

The sword is one of the most iconic and romanticized medieval weapons with various styles.

The single handed broadsword designed to be easily handled and give the wielder a free hand and the option to use a shield while fighting. Hand and a half swords and two handed swords were mainly used by knights on horseback, the extra length of handle giving knights an easier job of reaching the foot soldiers without endangering their balance.

Axes:

The battle axe was probably adapted simple woodman's axe simple and was easy to use, "there's your body here's my axe."

One problem that occurred with the axe was its tendency to blunt after constant use. A simple and easy solution was arrived at: fix another blade on the reverse of the shaft. This design made it easier to fight in a figure eight motion which increased the ease of fighting and the energy used. There was one drawback with this style; once this motion had started it was very difficult to stop.

Mace:

This possibly came from a simple farming tool that was used to drag behind you to make furrows for planting new crops. However, when called upon in battle it was conveniently heavy and good for breaking bones.

The cavalry mace was almost identical but with a longer shaft to reach foot soldiers from horseback.

Flail / Ball and Chain:

Again this was possibly a farming tool which originally would have comprised of two sticks connected by a chain and used to thresh crops. However, give this simple tool to the army war mind, with the removal of one stick and replacing it with a heavy ball with spikes, you have a perfect weapon for cracking skulls and breaking bones.

Spears:

A long pole with a sharp metal point...

Halberd:

Another farming tool cross-bred into an army weapon, beginning life as a glaive for cutting down crops at harvest this, by attaching it to a longer shaft, became a sweeping weapon ideal for cutting the legs off of horses. With the addition of a point on the top and the back the halberd was forged and used in effective fashion. Firstly by hacking the legs of the horse and as the knight lands on the ground using the halberds point to finish him.

Shields / bucklers:

As it sounds a defensive shield in various shapes and forms.

Accerton:

A heavy padded jacket filled with almost anything to help cushion blows aimed at the wearer.

Gambeson:

A lighter but better made padded jacket to help protect the wearer, used by knights under chainmail.

Chainmail:

Small metal rings fitted together to prevent injury from cutting weapons. Shirts, coifs and leggings known as chausses would be made of these.

Kettle Helm:

This style of helmet was used right up to the Second World War, its name coming from its dual use. Firstly as a helmet, its extended rim helping to deflect weapons past the shoulders that are extremely useful when fighting. The second use of this helmet was when it would be turned upside down and hung over a fire when the army was on the move to cook food in.

Great Helm:

This gave all round protection for knights with two major drawbacks. Firstly, hearing was dramatically reduced. Secondly because of the limited vision granted by the eye slits the knight was screwed if attacked by children or midgets.

Surcoat:

There are a few suggestions that these were used to help prevent rusting of chainmail but their main use was as identifying what knight was in which armour; you did not want to fight someone in your own army by mistake! Knights were more valuable alive than dead, they would be captured and ransomed, where possible, rather than killed.

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Scottish Rulers

This is a list of Scottish rulers starting in AD500 with Fergus Mor MacErc. The people who established the Kingdom of Dalriada (Or dal Rita) were known as Scots as they came from Ireland. (Scotii was the Latin word for the people of Ireland as named by the Romans) and the First King of Scots was descended from these people.

Kings of Dalriada.

Fergus Mor MacErc 500 -501 First King of Dalriada

Domangart Mac Fergus 501- 507

Comgall MacDomangart 507 - 538

Gabhran MacDomanGart 538 - 558

Conall MacComgall 558 – 574

Aedan MacGabran 574 - 608. (This date is probably incorrect as evidence says Aedan died at the Battle of Degestan in 606. This would fit with your two kings, Cineadh Cerrin 607 and Arthurius in 608)

Eochaid Buide 608 - 629

Connad 629 - 629

Domnall Brecc the Frekled629 - 642

Ferchar MacConnad 642 - 650

Dunchad 650 - 654

Conall 654 - 660

Domingart MacDomnall 660 - 673

Maelduin MacConall 673 - 688

Domnall 688 - 695

Ferchar Fota 695 - 697

Eochaid Crooknose 697 - 697

Ainbcellach Mac Ferchar - 697 - 698

Fianamail MacConall 698 - 700

Selbach MacFerchar 700 - 723

Drungall MacSelbach 723 - 726
Eochaid MacEochaid 726 - 733
Alpin MacEochaid 733 - 733
Muirédach MacAincellach 733 - 736
Eogan MacMuirédach 736 - 739
Aed (MacEochaid?) 739 - 778
Fergus MacEochaid 778 - 781
Eochaid MacAed 781 - 781
Constantin MacFergus 781 – 820
Oengus MacFergus. 820 – 834
Drust MacConstantine 834 – 837
Eoganan MacOengus 837 – 839
Aplin MacEochaid 839 - 843

King of Scots

Kenneth MacAlpin (Kenneth the First). 843-858.

Donald Mac Alpin (Kenneths Brother) 858 – 862

Constantine First 862 - -877

Aed877 – 878 (Second son of Kenneth 1st)

Eochaid878 – 889 (1st son of Kenneth 1sts daughter(Pictish tradition of Matrilineal monarchy) Supported by his Regent, Giric Pictish)

Donald II889 – 900

Constantine II900 - 942

Malcolm I 943-954

Indulf 954 - 962

Dubh962 - 966

Culen966 - 971

Kenneth II 971 – 995

Constantine III995 - 997

Kenneth III 997 – 1005

Malcolm the Second 1005 – 1034

Duncan The First 1034 – 1040

MacBeth 1040 - 1058

Malcolm the Third 1058 – 1093

Donald Bane 1093 – 1094

Duncan II 1094-1097

Edgar 1097 - 1107

Alexander 1107 – 24

David 1124 – 1153

Malcolm IV 1153 - 1165

William the Lion 1165 – 1214

Alexander II 1214 – 1249

Alexander III 1249 – 1286

Margret Maid of Norway. 1286 – 1290 First Queen of Scotland

John Balliol 1290 – 1296

Robert I 1306- 1329 Last King Crowned on Stone of Destiny.

DavidII 1329 – 1371

Robert II 1371 – 1390

Robert III 1309 – 1406

James I 1406 – 1437

James II 1437 – 1460

James III 1460 – 1488

James IV 1488 – 1513

James V 1513 – 1542

Mary Queen of Scots. 1542 – 1587

James the Sixth (Becoming James the First in 1603) 1587 – 1625.

British Royalty since James the First

Charles I	1600	1625-1649
Charles II	1630	1649 and 1660-1685
James II	1633	1685-1689
Mary II William III	1662 1650	jointly with 1689-1694
William III (alone)	1694-1702	
Anne	1665	1702-1714
George I	1660	1714-1727
George II	1683	1727-1760
George III	1738	1760-1820
George IV	1762	1820-1830
William IV	1765	1830-1837
Victoria	1819	1837-1901
Edward VII	1841	1901-1910
George V	1865	1910-1936
Edward VIII	1894	Jan-Dec 1936
George VI	1895	1936-1952
Elizabeth II	1926	1952 onwards

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Notable Monarchs and Characters

Alexander III of Scotland

King of Scots Born 11 September 1241 Coronated 13 July 1249 (Age 8) reigned 6 July 1249 – 19 March 1286 Predecessor Alexander II Successor Margaret Died 19 March 1286 cause of death fell from his horse in the dark on a stormy night whilst trying to get home to his new wife.

Notes – Married Margaret of England in 1251 (Aged 10). King Henry III of England demanded homage but Alexander refused. Three children – Margaret who married Erik of Norway (Eric Bloodaxe) Alexander and David who both died before their father. Alexander's successor was his Grand daughter Margaret's daughter Margaret. Margaret of England died in 1274.

Fought the battle of Largs Versus King Hakkon of Norway regaining control of the western isles for Scotland and effectively bringing about an end to Viking involvement in Scotland although they did still retain Orkney and Shetland

Created the title Lord of the Isles for Angus MacDonald, clan chief of the biggest clan in the isles. This would prove a problem for future kings of Scotland who would often find MacDonalds descendants behaving as if kings themselves and opposing the rightful Scottish monarch.

Married Yolande de Dreux in 1285 with the issue of an heir foremost in his mind. It was this matter that led to him rushing home from a meeting with royal advisors in bad weather

Margaret, Maid of Norway

Queen of Scots born April 1283 Never coronated although reigned from 25 November 1286 – October 1290 Predecessor Alexander III successor John Balliol Died October 1290 during the crossing from Norway to Scotland (Age 7)

Notes – At the time of Alexander III's death it was thought that Queen Yolande was pregnant although Alexander had forced recognition of Margaret of Norway as his successor due to him having no apparent heir. This caused a delay in Margaret taking the throne and control of the nation was held by a collection of "Guardians of Scotland". It's unclear what happened to Yolande's child, although it is likely it was still born or miscarried. When the announcement was made that Yolande had no child Robert Brus 5th lord of Annandale and his son Robert Brus earl of Carrick rebelled against the crown and seized royal castles. (These men were the grand father and father of Robert I) A Norwegian ambassador arrived in Scotland to pursue the claim of Margaret

Far from the Scots displaying any desire to bring Margaret to Scotland, it was Margaret's father Eric who raised the question again. Eric sent official

ambassadors to Edward I of England, then in Gascony, in May of 1289, with papers referring to Margaret as "Queen". Negotiations from this time onwards were between Edward, who returned to England later in the year, and Eric, and excluded the Scots until Edward met with Robert Bruce and some of the Guardians at Salisbury in October of 1289. The Scots were in a weak position since Edward and Eric could arrange Margaret's marriage to the future Edward II of England, or some other if they chose, without reference to the Guardians. Accordingly the Guardians signed the Treaty of Salisbury, which agreed that Margaret would be sent to Scotland before 1 November 1290, and that any agreement on her future marriage would be deferred until she was in Scotland

Eric Bloodaxe

King of Norway and father of Margaret Queen of Scots. Didn't play a significant part in our history and is only included here as he has the best name in all of history.

John of Scotland

King of Scots Born 1249 Coronated 30 November 1292 reigned 17 November 1292 – 10 July 1296 Predecessor Margaret of Norway Successor Robert I Died 25 November 1314

Notes Significantly John's rule ended 18 years before his death.

Balliol was one of 13 claimants to the throne of Scotland after the death of Margaret of Norway. The thirteen were

Edward I of England (Claim through lineage through Malcolm III's daughter Edith)

Floris V Count of Holland. (Claim through David I Son Henry's Daughter Ada)

Patrick Dunbar 7th Earl of Dunbar (Claim through lineage from William I's Daughter Ada and as Agnate of the House of Dunkeld based on the Tanistry system where rule was passed to a second in command regardless of bloodlines)

William De Vesci (Claim through lineage of William I's daughter Margaret)

William de Ross (Claim through William I's Daughter Isabella, I know, he had a lot of Daughters)

Robert de Pinkeney (Claim through lineage, of David I's Son Henry, Daughter Marjorie)

Nicholas de Soules (Claim through lineage of Alexander II)

Patrick Galithly (Claim through lineage William I's son Henry (William I was his granda)

Rodger de Madeville (Claim through lineage William I's daughter Aufrica)

John Comyn Lord of Badenoch (Claim through Donald III)

John Hasting (Claim through Lineage David I's son Henry's son David's fourth daughter Ada)

John Balliol (Claim through Lineage David I's son Henry's son David's first daughter Margaret)

Robert Bruce 5th Lord of Annandale Grandfather of the Robert Bruce who became king (Claim through Lineage David I's son Henry's son David's second daughter Isabella)

Eric Bloodaxe Father of Queen Margaret.

However the dispute was soon down to two, and the other was Robert Bruce. The Accession was a closely contested thing Both Bruce and Balliol were descended from King David I. Bruce was Married to the daughter of David I's grandson and therefore there were only three generations between them whilst Balliol was a further generation away, but critically descended through the elder sister of the Bruce's wife.

Although there are 14 named above, Edward I of England was not a serious claim and only a legal technicality which allowed him to preside over the court making the decision of whom to appoint as Lord Paramount of Scotland. Whilst in retrospect it seems foolish to appoint the King of England to adjudicate over the decision of whom to appoint as King of Scots, Edward had the right and had proven just in the past. Indeed in 1286 he presided over a dispute between France and the kingdom of Aragon in Spain. His motive in gaining peace was the unification of Christian countries as an alliance to go on Crusade. Although his work proved futile in achieving this aim, his work was beyond question. Edward was also known to be a close friend of the King Alexander III during his lifetime and both men shared lineage as Edward's formal claim to the Scottish throne proves.

And so it was that the Guardians of Scotland invited in as adjudicator the man who would become known as the hammer of the Scots.

Edward soon proclaimed Balliol King. Whilst this was probably the correct decision Edward was also motivated by the fact that Balliol would be more malleable to his own means. Indeed, after the coronation Scotland was treated as a vassal rather than an equal Kingdom and Balliol was forced to promise support and finance to England in various ways and was even hauled to court in England at the request of a wine merchant for his failure to pay outstanding bills. During the court case Balliol was stripped of his kingly garments and became known as *toom tabbard* (Meaning empty coat.)

The Scottish people meanwhile tired of a King with no power and appointed a new council of Twelve Guardians of Scotland who rather than support England in any war against France signed the Auld Alliance.

When Edward found out he was furious and attacked Scotland immediately. The French failed to hold up their part of the agreement where they should have attacked England to assist the Scots. They really are cheese eating surrender monkeys.

Balliol abdicated in 1296 and was held prisoner in the Tower of London. However, given that his abdication was given under conditions of extreme duress his supporters claimed it was invalid and rose in rebellion against Edward.

Balliol died in 1314

Edward I of England

King of England Born June 1239 Coronated 19 August 1274 reigned 16 November 1272 – 7 July 1307 Predecessor Henry III Successor Edward II Died 13 July 1307

Edward is most well known for his action against the Scots during the first war of independence, but he also participated in a civil war known as the barons war after reforming the feudal system of England, went on Crusades, conquered and annexed Wales, was a well respected Law expert of the day and a loving husband. Indeed after the death of his wife Elanor her body was taken on procession from Lincoln to Westminster and Crosses were erected at each site where he stopped over night as a sign of his grief and in memory of his wife.

He was an imposing man and at 6' 2 extremely tall which earned him the nickname longshanks.

As a result of so many military campaigns, the English treasury was put under a considerable financial strain. A source of crown income was represented by England's Jews. The Jews were the king's personal property, and he was free to tax them at will. By the 1280 the Jews had been exploited to a level where they

were no longer of much financial use to the crown, but they could still be used in political bargaining. Their usury business – a practice forbidden to Christians – had made many people indebted to them, and caused general popular resentment. In 1275, Edward had issued the Statute of the Jewry, which outlawed usury and encouraged the Jews to take up other professions; in 1279, in the context of a crack-down on coin-clippers, he arrested all the heads of Jewish households in England and had around 300 of them executed. In 1280 he ordered all Jews to attend special sermons, preached by Dominican friars, with the hope of persuading them to convert, but neither of these exhortations were followed.

The final attack on the Jews in England came in the form of the Edict of Expulsion in 1290, whereby Edward formally expelled all Jews from England. This not only generated revenues through royal appropriation of Jewish loans and property, but it also gave Edward the political capital to negotiate a substantial lay subsidy in the 1290 Parliament. The financial burdens of the English treasury were not only carried by the Jews, but also by the rest of England including the Church. The Archbishop of Canterbury of the time gained a papal bull exempting the Church from paying taxes to a Monarch and Edward responded by outlawing him. Due to the heavy handedness in raising taxes Edward was one of the least popular monarchs in his own country.

Robert I (Robert the Bruce)

King of Scots Born 11 July 1274 Coronated 25 March 1306 reigned 1306 – 1329 Predecessor John Balliol Successor David II Died 7 June 1329.

Notes This Bruce is the Grandson of the previous claimant to the Scottish throne, Robert Bruce 5th Lord of Annandale. Before becoming King this Robert Bruce was 7th Lord of Annandale and Earl of Carrick.

Initially after the succession of John Balliol Bruce supported Edward I of England, although this was more in view of his opinion that Balliol had usurped his family's rightful place on the throne than any loyalty to the English King. This however did not stop Bruce and his father from swearing fealty to Edward in 1296 at Berwick upon Tweed.

The young Bruce switched sides and was ordered to urgently support John de Warenne in 1297, but instead chose to support the Scottish rebellion. Later that year Bruce was forced to again swear fealty to Edward and to hand over his daughter Marjorie as a hostage. Switching sides so regularly led people to believe that his allegiance could be bought.

After William Wallace resigned as Guardian of Scotland Bruce and John Comyn became joint Guardians. The pair however could not resolve personal differences. The Comyn was a nephew of King John and therefore a rival to Bruce for the throne. Thus in 1299 William Lamberton Bishop of St Andrews

was appointed as third guardian. The following year the Bruce resigned. With Maberton and Comyn doing the same the year after. Sole Guardianship of Scotland was given to John de Soules as he was neutral to both camps and a patriot. Indeed Soules efforts were in the main aimed at the restoration of King John to the Throne. His efforts were ultimately futile and by 1304 John Comyn was again guardian of Scotland. At this time all Scottish nobles pledged allegiance to Edward with the singular exception of William Wallace.

Scotland was now at the mercy of the English king. All but one noble were bound by their honour to him, and that one, William Wallace was thoroughly demoralised after crushing defeats and reduced his activity to guerilla warfare which hampered rather than stopped English progress. Edward set about dismantling Scotland from the inside. All remaining Nobles and Burghers were forced by arms to pay homage to Edward. Parliament was held to elect a Scottish parliament to meet with the English Parliament to establish rules for governance of Scotland. William Wallace was also captured and executed by the English. With his death it seemed only a matter of time before English rule was as complete in Scotland as it was in Wales.

The Bruce however steadfastly believed it was his right to rule the Scots. As a noble from a large family with plenty of land he was in a strong position to claim the throne. However, his frequent changing of sides meant that few trusted him. John Comyn on the other hand had always opposed England. His family was bigger than the Bruces, had more land and was connected to many English nobles as well as Scottish. Comyn could also claim lineage to the Scottish throne through both his mother and his father. In 1305 a secret agreement was reached in which John Comyn agreed to forfeit his claim in favour of the Bruce in exchange for all of the Bruces lands in Scotland. At the same time Bruce was attending the English court and learned of Edwards plan to arrest him. Bruce fled to Scotland and Dumfries. He also learned that Comyn had revealed the agreement to Edward. Bruce Met with Comyn at Dumfries Abbey and confronted him with regards to his treachery. The two came to blows and the Bruce stabbed Comyn. Immediately he travelled to Glasgow and confessed his sins to the Bishop of Wishart who absolved his sins. Edward later clyped to the pope about it and the whole of Scotland was Excommunicated. Bruce realised that his actions had led him to a position where he could only become a fugitive or a king and so he set out whole heartedly to become the latter.

By the end of March he had already been coronated. In June Bruce was defeated at the Battle of Methven by an English army led by Amer de vallance. After the defeat Bruce fled to Raithlin Island where legend says he had an incident with a spider although this is probably untrue. Edward came north again taking Bruces wife daughter and sisters captive. His Brother Nigel was

Hung Drawn and Quartered. His Wife was held captive in a cage at Roxburgh Castle.

In July Edward died and his son acceded the throne. Edward II was far less accomplished as a leader of armies than his father had been. At the death of Edward I, Bruce split his forces in two and returned to Scotland. One army was headed by himself and his brother Edward, the other by his brothers Thomas and Alexander. Both were hung dawn and quartered. The Bruce began a campaign of guerilla warfare against Edward. Bruce began to win battles, with a victory at Glen trool followed by another victory over Amyer de Vallance at Loudoun hill. This success encouraged James Douglas to attack his own castle at Dougladale (as it was held by the English) and burn it to the ground. Bruce travelled North capturing castles on the way.

In late 1307 Bruce called off an unsuccessful attempt to take Elgin from John Comyn (Cousin to the Comyn who died ad Dumfries Abbey) as he himself had become ill from his harsh campaign. However he returned and beat the Earl of Buchan at the battle of Inverurie.

By the middle of 1309 The Bruce controlled all of Scotland north of the River Tay and was recognised by the scottish clergy as King of Scots. As he and all of Scotland were still excommunicated this was of huge significance. Bruce continued a systematic regime of capturing English castles over the next three years. Edward II had not yet been in Scotland to oppose him.

In The spring of 1314, Edward Bruce laid siege to stirling castle. He agreed with governor Philip de Mowbray that the Castle should Capitulate should they not be relieved before 24 June 1314. Word of this agreement was sent back to England and Edward II set out immediately with an army to relieve them. Until now Robert Bruce had executed an excellent campaign of Guerilla warfare, in the main avoiding English armies. Now, he had no option but to intercept Edward Edward had with him 25,000 men and the Bruce only 9,000. Yet clever tactics of choosing the battlefield, preparing it before hand and insubordination within the English ranks led to Scotlands most famous victory. After a sound thrashing the Edward returned to England. Scotland was free of English oppresion and indeed raided into Yorkshire and into Lancashire.

In addition to his military achievemnets Robert Bruce was also a great diplomat writing the Declaration of Arbroath in conjunction with the clergy and succedding in getting his excommunication lifted. He also gained the signature of Edward II to the treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton recognising Scotland as an independent Kingdom and Robert I as it's King.

Robert Bruce died on 7 June 1329 from an "Unclean ailment" His body lies in Dunfermline Abbey, but his heart was removed from his chest and carried on crusade by Sir James Douglas. Alas Douglas was ambushed before reaching the holy land. Upon realising his imminent death, Douglas grabbed the casket containing the heart of his king and threw it ahead of him shouting "Onward Braveheart! Douglas shall follow thee or die." The heart was later recovered and taken back to Melrose abbey.

David II of Scotland

King of Scots Born 5 March 1324 Coronated 1329 reigned 7 June 1329 – 22 February 1371 Predecessor Robert I Successor Robert II Died 22 February 1371.

David was married to Joan of England in 1328 when he was 4 and she was 7. This was part of the agreement in the treaty of Northampton in which England acknowledged Scotland as an independent nation and peace was achieved.

David II became King of Scots at the Age of 5, with Thomas Randolph becoming Guardian of Scotland (Effectively the young kings regent). Edward III saw the death of King David's father as an opportunity to take control of Scotland and the Second war of independence began. During the early years of this war, David was a child and much of the fighting was done on his behalf by the Guardians of Scotland who ruled in his stead whilst Edward was initially involved only through supporting the claim of Edward Balliol to the Scottish throne. In 1334 David II was moved to France for safety at the invitation of Phillip VI. He returned in 1341 now aged 17 to an impoverished Scotland. Struggling under the financial hardship of another war and with many of his senior nobles dead from the fighting. He was determined to live up to the reputation of his father and to aid his ally, Phillip VI and so in accordance with the Auld Alliance invaded England in 1346. He was captured at the Battle of Neville's Cross and imprisoned in London for eleven years.

In 1357, a king's ransom of 100,000 marks was finally agreed and he returned to Scotland. Unfortunately Scotland could not afford to pay the Ransom and so in order to save his own skin David in 1363 began negotiations with England to make Lionel, Duke of Clarence (one of Edward III's sons) king of Scotland. The proposal was of course rejected by the Scottish Parliament, but David struck out secret negotiations with Edward III. In 1369 the treaty agreeing the ransom was scrapped and re-written in Scotland's favour. As Edward was currently embroiled in the beginnings of the hundred years war with France he probably had other things on his mind and indeed, when he died in 1377 payments stopped completely (Although David himself had died 6 years earlier)

David's wife Joan had died and he remarried in 1364, however neither wife provided him with an Heir and the crown passed to his nephew Robert II.

Andrew de Moray

Date of birth unknown – late thirteenth century.

Died 1297 from wounds received during the battle of Stirling bridge.

Member of the Baronial Family the Morays of Petty

Residences Avoch Castle (No longer there) and Bothwell castle

Preceded by Andrew de Moray

Succeeded by Andrew de Moray

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Andrew de Moray

Andrew de Moray was a prominent leader in the Northern Rising and went on to join forces at Stirling bridge with the Wallace. De Moray was therefore in joint command and equal to the Wallace in that battle. Indeed, had he not died from wounds received in that Battle it is likely he would have been made Guardian of Scotland instead of Wallace.

Sir Andrew De Morays father, also Andrew re married after the death of his wife. Sir Andrew De Morays step mother was the sister of John Comyn and niece of the King, John Balliol. His Uncle William was lord of Bothwell and built the castle that still stands there today. Andrew De Moray was heir to both Bothwell and Avoch castle not to mention his Uncles wealth and his fathers lands at Petty.

After the death of Alexander the third and Edward I of Englands meddling in Scottish affairs, Scottish king John Balliol reneged on his agreement that Edward should be overlord of Scotland and formed an alliance with the French. Edward was enraged and in the spring of 1296 Andrew de Moray with his father and uncle joined the Scots preparing for conflict. The Scots Feudal Hosts marched into northern England destroying 120 villiages on their way to Carlisle. There they found the town to be held against them by Robert Bruce lord of

Annandale (Not the Robert Bruce who would eventually become King, but his dad.)

Many Scots at this time sided with Edward, including the Bruce and his son, the lord of Carrick who would later become King of Scots. They swore fealty to be faithful and Loyal to king Edward, king of England. (Notably this pledge is to the man and not the title.) Many marched on Berwick whilst more of the English army thrashed the Scots at Dunbar. It is worth noting that Scottish society as a whole had not been mobilised for war in a generation. After Dunbar John Balliol was stripped of his rank and held prisoner in England along with other nobles captured at Dunbar including Andrew De Moray and his father. It looked to all intents and purposes as if Scotland had fallen and now belonged to England.

John De Warrene was put in charge of Scotland and Hugh de Cressingham made treasurer. Scottish castles were now garrisoned by English soldiers and Scotland was heavily taxed. These taxes led to discontent amongst the Scottish people. This was added to further as Edward planned to conscript Scots, including nobility, for his coming fight in Flanders. In the winter of 1296 De Moray escaped from the Tower of London and returned to a much different Scotland. At Avoch castle he declared his defiance of English Rule. At the same time Wallace began his defiance by killing the Sherriff of Lanark. Although de Morays father still lived he remained in the Tower of London and it was his son who gathered a following. Small acts of rebellion sprang up across the country, and even royal property and personages were attacked. Many people wrote to the king who responded in typically firm fashion. He wrote to Alexander of the Isles to suppress rebellions in Argyll and Ross whilst Henry de Latham Sheriff of Aberdeen was given the same task in the North East. The King even dispatched his own men to assist sending Henry Percy and Walter Clifford North.

One other official who was concerned with the rebels in Moray was Sir Reginald Cheyne, sheriff of Elgin. He was a Scot but worked for the English and held his post. He wrote to the King seeking assistance, but Edward simply wrote back ordering him to vigorously suppress the rebels. Cheyne ordered his principle lieutenants to Inverness Castle to a meeting to discuss how to deal with De Moray. In attendance of that meeting amongst others was William Fitz Warin, constable of Urquhart.

Fitz warin was ambushed by de Moray on his way back to Urquhart and was fortunate to escape with his life. The next day he awoke to find his castle besieged by de Moray. However without Siege equipment de Moray was unable to take the castle. De Moray changed his approach and went after Cheyne himself, taking Duffus castle in the process.

De Moray continued to campaign in the Summer of 1296 and many castles including Urquhart fell to him. De Moray was taking and Capturing castles across the North, North east and even heading south.

Even still King Edward was more concerned with his impending campaign in Flanders. His response to renewed cries for help this time was to send Scots to the north to deal with De Moray. Men released from the tower for the Flanders campaign along with Cheyne, Garnait of Mar whose father remained in the tower and the brothers John and Alexander Comyn were amongst the English retinue. De Moray heard of the advance and moved to intercept the English force however there is little account of what happened when the two sides met on the banks of the river Spey. Most likely neither side wanted to fight men they did not consider enemies. Cheyne wrote to the King advising him that de Moray had retreated into a "stronghold of bog and wood where no horseman may be of use."

Edward may have believed matters settled, but Cressingham did not.

By the late summer of 1297, Edwards authority in Scotland was almost nonexistent. De Moray and Wallace between them had liberated almost everything north of the firth of forth. (Only Dundee Castle remained in English hands, and in September it was under siege.) In the south Robert Bruce, Robert Wishart, Bishop of Glasgow and others whilst not taking control of the land had caused such disruption that Edwards rule was in disarray. Edward had two options. Allow the Scots to stand free of his rule, or mount a full scale invasion.

The Earl of Surrey who was supposed to be in charge of Scotland on Edwards behalf now marched into Central Scotland. De Moray and Wallace left the siege of Dundee to others and went to meet him awaiting his arrival at Stirling. With a much smaller Army, de Moray and Wallace waited on the North side of the river Forth. De Warenne proved an arrogant and inept general. Leading a large army, and with the victory at Dunbar still fresh in the minds of the English he sent his vanguard across the bridge in plain view of the Scots. De Moray and Wallace probably couldn't believe their luck and led a full charge into the English. The Vanguard was destroyed whilst the remainder of the English army stood impotently on the southern bank and when it became apparent De Warenne had been out smarted by the Scots the rest of the army fled the scene. First amongst those hastening to leave was De Warenne himself whose rode so far so quickly it was alleged that his horse "never once tasted food during the whole journey."

The English lost over one hundred knights and five thousand infantry. One who fell was the hated taxman Cressingham who was flayed alive with his skin turned into a baldric for Wallace's sword.

Scots losses were comparatively few and mainly infantry men, however the one notable loss was Moray himself. Though initially believed that De Moray took a wound that became infected and he later died from it, there is now some argument that he died at Stirling Bridge. The fact that his name appears on household documents could simply mean it was standard practice to carry out work on a noble's behalf. Similarly documentation from the Wallace containing de Moray's name could be evidence that Wallace continued to use the De Moray name to lend his actions credence and political weight as Wallace was a very minor noble or possibly even a criminal.

De Moray's father died in the Tower of London and he was therefore succeeded by his son Andrew de Moray who went on to be a guardian of Scotland and a regent to King David in his own right. He displayed similar military aptitude to his father.

Siege of Urquhart Castle

It is not known precisely when the castle was built, but records show the existence of a castle on this site from the early 13th century. The area had been granted to the Durward family in 1229, and they were probably the builders of the castle. Sir Robert Lauder of Quarrelwood was constable of Urquhart Castle in 1329. The castle was seized from the Crown in the mid-fifteenth century by the Earl of Ross but recovered shortly afterwards. In 1509, it was given as a gift to the Grants, whose ownership lasted until 1912. During this period, the MacDonalds captured the castle in 1545, while it was also captured by a covenanting force in 1644. The castle was then largely destroyed in 1692 by Williamite troops who had been holding the castle against Jacobite forces. The intention was to ensure that the castle could not become a Jacobite stronghold, an intention that was fully achieved as the castle was never repaired and remained as a ruin. Subsequent plundering of the stonework for re-use by locals, and natural decay, further reduced the ruins.

Most notably the castle was in the hands of the English during the Scottish wars of independence and was given to William de Warin who was made constable. De Warin was ambushed on his way back from a meeting at Inverness Castle by Andrew de Moray, whose uprising was the very subject discussed at the meeting De Warin had just attended. De Warin fled back to Urquhart and arose the next day to find himself being besieged by de Moray. De Moray demanded the castle be surrendered to him, which of course Fitz Warin refused. The Countess of Ross arrived on the scene and advised De Moray to surrender, although she made no move to attack him. Her actions may be explained by the fact that her

husband was detained in the tower of London at the time and although she may have supported de morays rebellion she wished to win the favour of the king and perhaps have her husband released. Indeed her actions were later commended to the king by Fitz Warenne.

De moray ignored her and attacked the castle anyway, however, with no siege equipment he waited until nightfall then tried to take the castle under cover of darkness. Unfortunately his efforts were ultimately fruitless and he left with Fitz Warenne licking his wounds and clyping to the King.

De Moray returned and took the castle later, though there is little evidence to describe how he achieved this. Many Castles fell to him at this time and they may either have been abandoned or surrendered quickly by Scots who controlled them for King Edward who wished to change sides. Whatever happened there is little written evidence to tell us.

Battle of Stirling Bridge

On September 11, 1297, De Moray and Wallace won the Battle of Stirling Bridge. Although vastly outnumbered, the Scottish routed the English army. England's professional army of 3,000 cavalry and 50,000 infantry met disaster as they crossed over to the north side of the river. The narrowness of the bridge prevented many soldiers from crossing together (possibly as few as three men abreast), so while the English soldiers crossed, the Scots held back until half of them had passed and then killed the English as quickly as they could cross.

A pivotal charge, caused some of the English soldiers to retreat as others pushed forward, and under the overwhelming weight, the bridge collapsed and many English soldiers drowned. The Scots won a significant victory which boosted the confidence of their army. Hugh de Cressingham, died in the fighting and it is reputed that his body was subsequently flayed and the skin cut into small pieces as tokens of the victory. William Crawford led 400 Scottish heavy cavalry to complete the action by running the English out of Scotland. It is widely believed that Moray died of wounds suffered on the battlefield sometime in the winter of 1297, but an inquisition into the affairs of his uncle, Sir William Moray of Bothwell, held at Berwick in late November 1300, records he was "slain at Stirling against the king."

Upon his return from the Battle of Stirling Bridge, Wallace was knighted^[11] along with his second-in-command John de Graham and Wallace was named "Guardian of Scotland and Leader of its armies". This gives further credence to the claim that De Moray died at the Battle.

Wallace, Cressingham and Others.

William Wallace – Minor noble who killed Hazelrig, Sheriff of Lanark, which began the uprising of Central and west Scotland, Co-commander at Stirling Bridge who survived and went on to become Guardian of Scotland. Adopted a tactic of Guerrilla warfare and was eventually handed over to the English by greedy Monteth and died a horrible death.

Hugh de Cressingham – Hated treasurer of Scotland charged with collecting taxes. After running away from the battle of Stirling bridge as fast as he could it was said he couldn't stay in Scotland because he was a weakling and the bad weather made him ill. Not liked by the English much either. Flayed at Stirling Bridge and his skin was made into a belt or Baldric for Wallace.

John De Warenne – Earl of Surrey and leader of the campaign to crush rebellious Scots. Failed in catastrophic fashion at the Battle of Stirling Bridge, but was put in charge again upon his return where he failed again.

William Fitz Warin – Constable of Urquhart.

Reginald Cheyne – Sheriff of Elgin

Countess of Ross – Attended Siege of Urquhart but took little action.

Andrew de Moray – De Morays dad and his son were both called Andrew.

William de Moray – de Morays rich uncle

John Comyn – De Morays Step brother through his fathers second marriage

Alexander Comyn – De Morays Step brother through his fathers second marriage

King John Balliol – De Moray's step mothers Uncle.

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