

ROBERT THE BRUCE



**“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY**



ROBERT THE BRUCE

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1274

July 11, Monday (Old Style): [Robert the Bruce](#) was born in [Scotland](#), a politically divided region the nobility of which needed to swear allegiance to the English to the south, under their King Edward I. The Bruce would join in the political revolt led by William Wallace (*circa* 1274-1305), and would by his murder in February 1306 of his rival John Comyn in a church in Dumfries, entitle himself to a crown — as Robert I at Scone on March 27, 1306. His revolt would take the form of a guerilla war against England, up to his victory over the forces of King Edward II at Bannockburn on June 24, 1314. In 1320 a letter composed in Latin by Bernard de Linton (dated April 24th) would be sent by the Scottish barons and clergy to Pope John XXII at Avignon, stating their allegiance to Robert I. This letter, known as the Declaration of Arbroath, would include a the resounding assertion to the effect that (per a translation published in 1689) “For so long as there shall be but one hundred of us remain alive we will never consent to subject ourselves to the dominion of the English. For it is not glory, it is not riches, neither is it honors, but it is liberty alone that we fight and contend for.” Three years later the Pope would recognize the Bruce as King of Scotland, and the accession of the young King Edward III to the English throne would help Robert I gain English recognition in 1328.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT





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1295

In [Scotland](#), [Robert the Bruce](#)'s grandfather died.



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1298

Wallace was knighted and appointed Guardian of [Scotland](#). Edward I invaded. The Battle of Falkirk. [Robert the Bruce](#) and Comyns were appointed Guardians.

of England; which lays the foundation of a long and desolating war between both nations.

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1298 The present Turkish empire begins in Bithynia under Ottoman.
Silver-hafted knives, spoons, and cups, a great luxury.
Tallow candles so great a luxury, that splinters of wood were used for lights.
Wine sold only by apothecaries as a cordial.

1302 The mariner's compass invented, or improved, by Givias of Naples.

1307 The beginning of the Swiss cantons.

1308 The popes remove to Avignon, in France, for 70 years.

1310 Lincoln's Inn society established.

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1320 Gold first coined in Christendom; 1344, ditto in England.

1336 Two Brabant weavers settle at York, "which," says Edward III. "may prove of great benefit to us and our subjects."

1337 The first comet whose course is described with astronomical exactness.

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Heralds college instituted in England.

1344 The first creation to titles by patents used by Edward III.

1346 The battle of Durham, in which David, king of Scots, is taken prisoner.

1349 The order of the garter instituted in England by Edward III. altered in 1557, and consists of 26 knights.

LIFE IS LIVED FORWARD BUT UNDERSTOOD BACKWARD?
— NO, THAT'S GIVING TOO MUCH TO THE HISTORIAN'S STORIES.
LIFE ISN'T TO BE UNDERSTOOD EITHER FORWARD OR BACKWARD.



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1300

[Robert the Bruce](#) resigned as a Guardian, and was replaced by de Umfraville. The English invaded [Scotland](#). There was a truce.

Do I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.



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1302

There was a truce between [Scotland](#) and England. [Robert the Bruce](#) got married with Elizabeth de Burgh.

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





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1304

[Robert the Bruce](#)'s father died. A bond was created between Robert and Lamberton.

SCOTLAND



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1305



In 1297 a Scot of Welsh descent, Sir William Wallace, had rebelled against English rule in [Scotland](#). After defeating an English army at Stirling Bridge his army was in 1298 defeated at Falkirk. For seven years Sir William had waged a guerrilla campaign, only to be betrayed in 1305 by Sir John Mentieth and “carried from Westminster to the Tower, and from the Tower to Aldgate, and so through the city to the Elms at Smithfield ... and as an outlaw beheaded.” Committed to the Tower of London on August 22d, he was executed at Tyburn on August 24th. (Actually, rather than being merely beheaded after being brought to a field by St. Bartholomew Hospital, he was first hung until he was almost –but not quite– dead. Then, taken down from his noose and tied down, his genitals were lopped off. Then he was disemboweled and his innards were burned before his face, and only then –still apparently barely alive– was he beheaded.) The body was chopped into quarters to be put on display in cities marking the “four corners” of England (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Berwick, Stirling, and Perth), while the severed head, that having been the customary cure for treason, was impaled on a stake at London Bridge.

HEADCHOPPING

Their leader having been inventively chopped into pieces, there was of course a new ordinance for the government of a pacified [Scotland](#). –But, would the Scots become happy campers? Nooo, not exactly.

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT



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1306

This was an eventful year in [Scotland](#). James Douglas (Black) joined [Robert the Bruce](#). Their combined Scots army was defeated at the battles of Methven and Dalry, but Robert the Bruce escaped to Dunaverty and then to Rathlin. Robert the Bruce's wife, daughters, and sisters were captured at Tain. Robert the Bruce's brother Nigel, captured at Kildrummy Castle, was executed.

WHAT I'M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF

February (1305, Old Style): [Robert the Bruce](#) murdered his rival John Comyn in a church in Dumfries, [Scotland](#).

March 25, Friday (Old Style): [Robert the Bruce](#) was crowned Robert I of [Scotland](#), at Scone (despite the fact that the Stone of Scone was still underneath an ornate chair in Westminster Abbey).

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1307

There was guerrilla war in southwest [Scotland](#). [Robert the Bruce](#) landed at Turnberry. His brothers Alexander and Thomas were captured in Galloway, and executed. He defeated the English at Glen Trool and Loudon Hill and then moved north, but fell ill.

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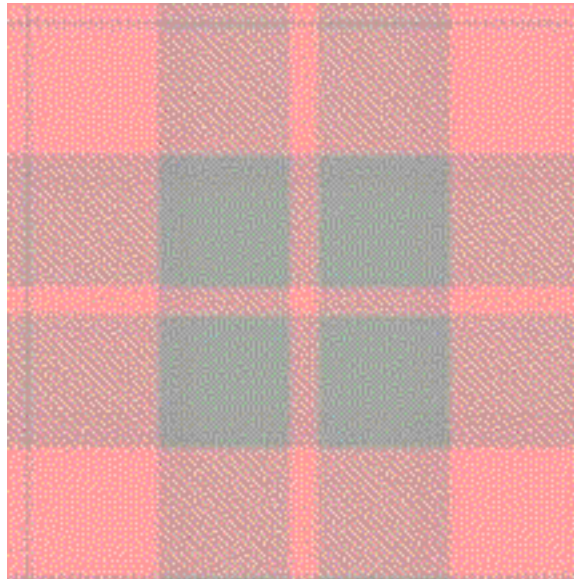
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1308

In [Scotland](#), the Battle of Inverurie, then the Battle of Brander. “Herschip” of Buchan. The Earl of Ross submitted to [Robert the Bruce](#).

The son of Maldred, brother to the King Duncan who had died in 1040, had been granted the town of Dunbar and its adjoining lands, and in consequence during the ensuing century his descendants had adopted “[Dunbar](#)” as their hereditary surname. The first of these Dunbar clansmen to be referred to as the earl of March, Patrick Dunbar, died in this year. Here is the clan tartan:



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(Eventually this assumed name “Dunbar” would become a famous one — as in “[Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau](#).”)

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1309

[Scotland](#) north of the Tay lay under the control of [Robert the Bruce](#).

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT



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1310

The armies of King Edward II of England invaded [Scotland](#).

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1311

Robert the Bruce raided into northern England.

SCOTLAND



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1312

[Robert the Bruce](#) again raided into northern England.

Treaty of Inverness between [Scotland](#) and Norway.



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1313

[Robert the Bruce](#) captured Perth, and reconquered southwest [Scotland](#) and the Isle of Man.

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1314

In this year King Edward II of England banned the playing of [football](#), there having been entirely too much bloodshed between his own when they should instead have been shedding the blood of foreigners.

[SPORTS](#)

This turned out to be insufficient: Douglas captured Roxburgh and Randolph captured Edinburgh. Despite the fact that the English weren't wasting time playing any football, the Battle of Bannockburn obtained Scottish independence and after this battle King Edward II of England was obliged to flee to Castle Dunbar, where he was allowed inside by [Patrick Dunbar, 10th earl of March](#) before boarding a boat that would return him to his digs at Berwick upon Tweed.

Had Earl Dunbar detained Edward the English nation might have been forced to recognize [Robert the Bruce](#) as King of [Scotland](#)! —But since Dunbar was one of the competing claimants for the Scottish throne, it wasn't in his interest to detain the King of England while the monarch was in this window of his vulnerability.

[DUNBAR FAMILY](#)

(I'll bet you didn't know that one of the ancestors of Henry David Thoreau could have put Robert the Bruce on the throne of Scotland — and wouldn't do it!)



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1315

In [Scotland](#), the Act of Succession. Princess Marjorie got married. Edward Bruce, brother of [Robert the Bruce](#), landed at Larne in an invasion of Ireland intended to eclipse the English colonial power there and set the Irish native population free of racial oppression. The Scots would be attempting to dominate [Ireland](#) until 1534.



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1316

[Robert the Bruce](#) declared himself to be the High King of [Ireland](#).



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1317

[Robert the Bruce](#) arrived in [Ireland](#) with army, highly motivated to do good and to do well.



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1318

The English Town of Berwick-upon-Tweed was taken by the Scots.

Murtough O'Brien defeated Richard de Clare at Dysert O'Dea in [Ireland](#); Normans lost control of Thomond in [Ireland](#). John de Bermingham defeated Edward Bruce at Faughart in [Ireland](#) and Bruce was slain.

Succession to the [Scottish](#) throne settled on Marjorie's son, Robert Stewart.



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1320

April 6, Sunday (Old Style): The Declaration of Arbroath, the “Scottish Declaration of Independence,” was signed by the assembled local nobility in Arbroath Abbey. The Declaration was addressed to the Pope because he had thrown his support to King Edward II of England and had excommunicated [Robert the Bruce](#). The text explained that the Bruce had rescued his country from a dreadful situation and that for this they were going to support him in all things. Among the signatories was [Patrick Dunbar, 10th earl of March](#), who had received Edward into Dunbar Castle after his flight from Bannockburn in 1314, and thus had enabled him to return to his own kingdom. The most famous soundbyte from the text is:

“For, so long as a hundred remain alive, we will never in any degree be subject to the dominion of the English. Since not for glory, riches or honours do we fight, but for freedom alone, which no man loses but with his life.”

The full text of this Declaration of Arbroath is carried on the following two screens (as rendered, of course, into English that is intelligible to modern readers.)

READ THE FULL TEXT

Patrick, in addition to being the 8th Earl of Dunbar after Gospatric, and possessing also the title and privileges of the 10th earl of March, had been one of the contestants against the Bruce for the crown of [Scotland](#) but had chosen to withdraw this claim and swear allegiance instead to the previous English monarch, Edward I. Patrick’s son and heir, the husband of the famous “Black Aggie,” also had sworn fealty to the English crown, to the son Edward II, at least at first. However, the son had here become one of the signers of this Declaration.



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To the most Holy Father and Lord in Christ, the Lord John, by divine providence Supreme Pontiff of the Holy Roman and Universal Church, his humble and devout sons Duncan, Earl of Fife, Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, Lord of Man and of Annandale, Patrick Dunbar, Earl of March, Malise, Earl of Strathearn, Malcolm, Earl of Lennox, William, Earl of Ross, Magnus, Earl of Caithness and Orkney, and William, Earl of Sutherland; Walter, Steward of Scotland, William Soules, Butler of Scotland, James, Lord of Douglas, Roger Mowbray, David, Lord of Brechin, David Graham, Ingram Umfraville, John Menteith, guardian of the earldom of Menteith, Alexander Fraser, Gilbert Hay, Constable of Scotland, Robert Keith, Marischal of Scotland, Henry St Clair, John Graham, David Lindsay, William Oliphant, Patrick Graham, John Fenton, William Abernethy, David Wemyss, William Mushet, Fergus of Ardrossan, Eustace Maxwell, William Ramsay, William Mowat, Alan Murray, Donald Campbell, John Cameron, Reginald Cheyne, Alexander Seton, Andrew Leslie, and Alexander Straiton, and the other barons and freeholders and the whole community of the realm of Scotland send all manner of filial reverence, with devout kisses of his blessed feet.

Most Holy Father and Lord, we know and from the chronicles and books of the ancients we find that among other famous nations our own, the Scots, has been graced with widespread renown. They journeyed from Greater Scythia by way of the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Pillars of Hercules, and dwelt for a long course of time in Spain among the most savage tribes, but nowhere could they be subdued by any race, however barbarous. Thence they came, twelve hundred years after the people of Israel crossed the Red Sea, to their home in the west where they still live today. The Britons they first drove out, the Picts they utterly destroyed, and, even though very often assailed by the Norwegians, the Danes and the English, they took possession of that home with many victories and untold efforts; and, as the historians of old time bear witness, they have held it free of all bondage ever since. In their kingdom there have reigned one hundred and thirteen kings of their own royal stock, the line unbroken a single foreigner. The high qualities and deserts of these people, were they not otherwise manifest, gain glory enough from this: that the King of kings and Lord of lords, our Lord Jesus Christ, after His Passion and Resurrection, called them, even though settled in the uttermost parts of the earth, almost the first to His most holy faith. Nor would He have them confirmed in that faith by merely anyone but by the first of His Apostles -- by calling, though second or third in rank -- the most gentle Saint Andrew, the Blessed Peter's brother, and desired him to keep them under his protection as their patron forever.

The Most Holy Fathers your predecessors gave careful heed to these things and bestowed many favours and numerous privileges on this same kingdom and people, as being the special charge of the Blessed Peter's brother. Thus our nation under their protection did indeed live in freedom and peace up to the time when that mighty prince the King of the English, Edward, the father of the one who reigns today, when our kingdom had no head and our people harboured no malice or treachery and were then unused to wars or invasions, came in the guise of a friend and ally to harass them as an enemy. The deeds of cruelty, massacre, violence, pillage, arson, imprisoning prelates, burning down monasteries, robbing and killing monks and nuns, and yet other outrages without number which he committed against our people, sparing neither age nor sex, religion nor rank, no one could describe nor fully imagine unless he had seen them with his own eyes.



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But from these countless evils we have been set free, by the help of Him Who though He afflicts yet heals and restores, by our most tireless Prince, King and Lord, the Lord Robert. He, that his people and his heritage might be delivered out of the hands of our enemies, met toil and fatigue, hunger and peril, like another Macabaeus or Joshua and bore them cheerfully. Him, too, divine providence, his right of succession according to or laws and customs which we shall maintain to the death, and the due consent and assent of us all have made our Prince and King. To him, as to the man by whom salvation has been wrought unto our people, we are bound both by law and by his merits that our freedom may be still maintained, and by him, come what may, we mean to stand. Yet if he should give up what he has begun, and agree to make us or our kingdom subject to the King of England or the English, we should exert ourselves at once to drive him out as our enemy and a subverter of his own rights and ours, and make some other man who was well able to defend us our King; for, as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom -- for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself.

Therefore it is, Reverend Father and Lord, that we beseech your Holiness with our most earnest prayers and suppliant hearts, inasmuch as you will in your sincerity and goodness consider all this, that, since with Him Whose Vice-Regent on earth you are there is neither weighing nor distinction of Jew and Greek, Scotsman or Englishman, you will look with the eyes of a father on the troubles and privation brought by the English upon us and upon the Church of God. May it please you to admonish and exhort the King of the English, who ought to be satisfied with what belongs to him since England used once to be enough for seven kings or more, to leave us Scots in peace, who live in this poor little Scotland, beyond which there is no dwelling-place at all, and covet nothing but our own. We are sincerely willing to do anything for him, having regard to our condition, that we can, to win peace for ourselves. This truly concerns you, Holy Father, since you see the savagery of the heathen raging against the Christians, as the sins of Christians have indeed deserved, and the frontiers of Christendom being pressed inward every day; and how much it will tarnish your Holiness's memory if (which God forbid) the Church suffers eclipse or scandal in any branch of it during your time, you must perceive. Then rouse the Christian princes who for false reasons pretend that they cannot go to help of the Holy Land because of wars they have on hand with their neighbours. The real reason that prevents them is that in making war on their smaller neighbours they find quicker profit and weaker resistance. But how cheerfully our Lord the King and we too would go there if the King of the English would leave us in peace, He from Whom nothing is hidden well knows; and we profess and declare it to you as the Vicar of Christ and to all Christendom. But if your Holiness puts too much faith in the tales the English tell and will not give sincere belief to all this, nor refrain from favouring them to our prejudice, then the slaughter of bodies, the perdition of souls, and all the other misfortunes that will follow, inflicted by them on us and by us on them, will, we believe, be surely laid by the Most High to your charge.

To conclude, we are and shall ever be, as far as duty calls us, ready to do your will in all things, as obedient sons to you as His Vicar; and to Him as the Supreme King and Judge we commit the maintenance of our cause, casting our cares upon Him and firmly trusting that He will inspire us with courage and bring our enemies to nought. May the Most High preserve you to his Holy Church in holiness and health and grant you length of days.

Given at the monastery of Arbroath in Scotland on the sixth day of the month of April in the year of grace thirteen hundred and twenty and the fifteenth year of the reign of our King aforesaid.

Endorsed: Letter directed to our Lord the Supreme Pontiff by the community of Scotland.



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1322

King Edward II's last invasion of [Scotland](#). [Robert the Bruce](#) raided in England, defeating the forces of Edward II at Old Byland, Yorkshire.



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1324

The Pope recognized [Robert the Bruce](#) as King of [Scotland](#). “Bob, you da man.”



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1326

The succession of [Scotland](#) settled on David Bruce, remainder to Robert Stewart.



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1327

September 27, Sunday (Old Style): King Edward II was assassinated. The truce between England and [Scotland](#) would be broken and King Edward III would go on the warpath but would be outwitted by Douglas and Randolph at Stanhope Park, Durham. [Robert the Bruce](#) would invade Northumberland.



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1328

June 17, Friday (Old Style): In the Treaty of Edinburgh, King Edward III renounced all claims of sovereignty over Scotland. David Bruce was to wed Edwards III's sister Joan. [Scotland](#) considered itself free.



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1329

June 7, Wednesday (Old Style): [Robert the Bruce](#) died of leprosy (his heart would be preserved in a silver casket and taken along on a Crusade against the Moslems of the southern portion of the Iberian peninsula; at some point his skull would be taken from the casket and would remain on display until 1819).¹

DIGGING UP THE DEAD

SCOTLAND

1. In the movie the grisly detail of this death is distanced by assigning it not to the point-of-view character but to his relative — and this does of course make perfect Hollywood sense because not so many people could be expected to pay \$7.50 to see a movie about a hero-guy who as the theme music swells is succumbing to something as unphotogenic as leprosy.

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1330

Sir James Douglas carried the heart of [Robert the Bruce](#) with him on a Crusade, in a silver casket, so that it could be interred in the Knights Templar Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. This seemed like a fine idea at the time. Douglas was, however, killed in battle outside of Teba de Ardales in Spain.

To this day the Douglas coat of arms bears an image of the heart of Robert the Bruce. Here, for instance, the family coat of arms, with its motto “Jamais Ariere” appears as an unusually pleasant tattoo:



There are stories, stories so true that they have been depicted in a Hollywood movie, that Sir James Douglas pitched the Bruce's heart at the Saracens like a softball, and that as a result of this gesture, despite the fact that Sir James then got killed, the battle against the Moslems was won by the Christians — plus there are stories that the heart was returned to [Scotland](#) to be buried in Melrose Abbey.



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According to those stories this was the silver casket and this stone is near where the heart it contained was finally buried — and what remains is the question “How much of this tale are you willing to credit?”





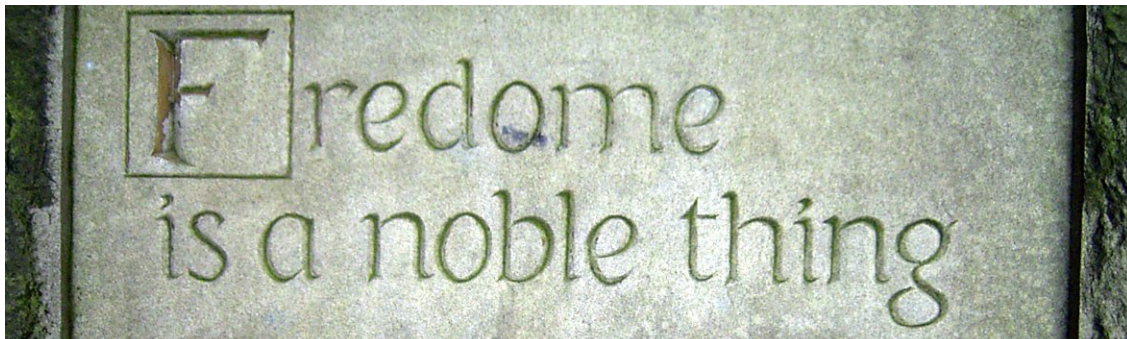
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1375

Archbishop [John Barbour](#) of the Kirk of St. Machar in Aberdeen completed the poem “The Brus”² that would be printed in 1790 as *THE BRUCE: OR, THE HISTORY OF ROBERT I, KING OF [SCOTLAND](#)*, that Henry Thoreau would read in 1842. This actually was the earliest known substantial poem written in Scots (as opposed to Gaelic, French or Latin), and attributable to a known poet. For his 13,550 lines of poesy Barbour would be rewarded with a pension from the [Robert the Bruce](#)’s grandson Robert II, founder of the Stuart dynasty which would rule Scotland –and later Great Britain– until the accession of King George I in 1714.³ Among this poem’s most famous passages is the following (l. 225-8):

A! fredome is a noble⁴ thing!
Fredome mayss man to haiff liking;
Fredome all solace to man giffis:
He levys at ese that frely levys.



A! fredome is a nobill thing
Fredome mayss man to haiff liking

2. Note that this founding-father figure “The Brus” was in actuality an artful compounding of three individuals named Robert who in today’s historical reconstruction (were anyone to care to attempt such a feat, and I think that now nobody much cares) would need to be kept carefully distinct from one another perhaps as “Robert₁,” “Robert₂,” and “Robert₃.”

3. Unfortunately, Mr. Gibson was not awarded a royal Australian pension for “Braveheart” and has been obliged to remain in Hollywood to commit movie atrocity after movie atrocity.

4. Please note that within this frame of reference, since freedom is a noble thing it is something that pertains only to the “brave hearts” of this world: serfs and slaves, on account of their evident willingness to be alive as serfs and slaves, simply cannot lay any legitimate claim to such a noble thing as freedom. They can be but mere prey to the noble freeman with his broadsword. “Tug your forelock and pay your taxes, boy.”



ROBERT THE BRUCE

ROBERT THE BRUCE

1790

[Adam Smith](#) died in Edinburgh, [Scotland](#).

The weaver and peddler [Alexander Wilson](#) had all along been attempting to get the poems he was crafting into a published book that he had the idea that he might successfully peddle in order to support himself, and at this point he managed to get into print a volume he entitled POEMS, HUMOROUS, SATIRICAL, AND SERIOUS. The enterprise would fail beyond his wildest expectations and he would relocate to the nearby village of Lochwinnoch. He continued to contribute to the Edinburgh [Bee](#) and continued to come into Edinburgh to deliver poetical addresses at the Pantheon.

Archdeacon [John Barbour](#) had composed a 13,550-line poem “The Brus” in 1375, the earliest known substantial poem written in Scots (as opposed to Gaelic, French or Latin), and attributable to a known poet. In this year this poem was for the 1st time published, as THE BRUCE; OR, THE HISTORY OF ROBERT I, KING OF [SCOTLAND](#). WRITTEN IN SCOTTISH VERSE BY JOHN BARBOUR. THE FIRST GENUINE EDITION PUBLISHED FROM A MS. DATED 1489; WITH NOTES AND A GLOSSARY BY J[OHN] PINKERTON. (London: printed by H. Hughs, for G. Nicol, Bookseller to His Majesty. M.DCC.XC.).



ROBERT THE BRUCE

BARBOUR'S THE BRUS I

BARBOUR'S THE BRUS II

BARBOUR'S THE BRUS III

A! fredome is a noble thing!
Fredome mayss man to haiff liking;
Fredome all solace to man giffis:
He levys at ese that frely levys.

HDT

WHAT?

INDEX

ROBERT THE BRUCE

ROBERT THE BRUCE

(Henry Thoreau would read this edition in 1842.)

Fredome
is a noble thing

John Barbour
(c.1320~1395)

A fredome is a nobill thing
fre dome mayß man so hayff liking

ROBERT THE BRUCE



ROBERT THE BRUCE

ROBERT THE BRUCE



ROBERT THE BRUCE

ROBERT THE BRUCE

1819



In [Scotland](#), the skull of [Robert the Bruce](#) was re-interred with the body (but first a plaster cast was made so something could be kept on display).



Don Juan, Byron.

The Harp of Renfrewshire, Motherwell.

Peter's Letters to His Kinsfolk, Lockhart.



ROBERT THE BRUCE

ROBERT THE BRUCE

1842

January 10, Monday: Charles Stearns Wheeler borrowed from the [Harvard Library](#), at [Henry Thoreau](#)'s request because otherwise Thoreau, just another "country scholar" no longer a privileged resident of Cambridge, would not have been permitted access to them, Archdeacon [John Barbour](#)'s poem THE BRUCE; OR, THE HISTORY OF ROBERT I, KING OF [SCOTLAND](#). WRITTEN IN SCOTTISH VERSE BY JOHN BARBOUR. THE FIRST GENUINE EDITION PUBLISHED FROM A MS. DATED 1489; WITH NOTES AND A GLOSSARY BY J[OHN] PINKERTON. (London: printed by H. Hughs, for G. Nicol, Bookseller to His Majesty. M.DCC.XC.) (on June 15th he would ask Wheeler to return this to the library).



ROBERT THE BRUCE

BARBOUR'S THE BRUS I

BARBOUR'S THE BRUS II

BARBOUR'S THE BRUS III

Lieutenant Vincent Eyre would report from the border of [Afghanistan](#) that "At break of day all was again confusion, every one hurrying to the front, and dreading above all things to be left in the rear. The Europeans were the only efficient men left, the Hindostanees having suffered so severely from the frost in their hands and feet, that few could hold a musket, much less pull a trigger. The enemy had occupied the rocks above the gorge, and thence poured a destructive fire upon the column as it slowly advanced. Fresh numbers fell at every volley. The sepoys, unable to use their arms, cast them away, and, with the followers, fled for their lives. The Affghans now rushed down upon their helpless and unresisting victims sword in hand, and a general massacre took place. The last small remnant of the native infantry regiments were here scattered and destroyed; and the public treasure, with all the remaining baggage, fell into the hands of the enemy. Meanwhile, the advance, after pushing through the Tungee with great loss, had reached Kubbur-i-Jubbar, about five miles ahead, without more opposition. Here they halted to enable the rear to join, but, from the few stragglers who from time to time came up, the astounding truth was brought to light, that of all who had that morning marched from Khoord-Cabul they were almost the sole survivors, nearly the whole of the main and rear columns having been cut off and destroyed. About 50 horse-artillerymen, with one twelve-pounder howitzer, 70 files of Her Majesty's 44th foot regiment, and 150 cavalry troopers, now composed the whole Cabul force; but, notwithstanding the slaughter and dispersion that had taken place, the camp-followers still formed a considerable body." When the



ROBERT THE BRUCE

ROBERT THE BRUCE

survivors directed another remonstrance to Akber Khan, his response was that he was unable to restrain these Giljyes. Traversing a narrow defile at the foot of the Huft Kotul, the travelers had to trudge past the bodies of those who previously been killed there while defenseless against continuing deadly fire from above.

“Brigadier Shelton commanded the rear with a few Europeans, and but for his persevering energy and unflinching fortitude in repelling the assailants, it is probable the whole would have been there sacrificed.”

When they made camp in the Tezeen valley for three hours of rest, it was evident that they had lost 12,000 men since leaving Cabul. A total of 15 officers had been either killed or wounded during this day’s march alone.

At 7PM they pushed on under cover of darkness, abandoning their last cannon and at this point leaving behind Dr. Cardew. Soon Dr. Duff also was so exhausted that he was unable to proceed. “Bodies of the neighbouring tribes were by this time on the alert, and fired at random from the heights, it being fortunately too dark for them to aim with precision; but the panic-stricken camp-followers now resembled a herd of startled deer, and fluctuated backwards and forwards, *en masse*, at every shot, blocking up the entire road, and fatally retarding the progress of the little body of soldiers who, under Brigadier Shelton, brought up the rear. At Burik-àb a heavy fire was encountered by the hindmost from some caves near the road-side, occasioning fresh disorder, which continued all the way to Kutter-Sung, where the advance arrived at dawn of day, and awaited the junction of the rear, which did not take place till 8AM.”⁵

“MAGISTERIAL HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING, HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY

“Stack of the Artist of Kouroo” Project

Robert the Bruce

5. Lieut. V. Eyre (Sir Vincent Eyre, 1811-1881). THE MILITARY OPERATIONS AT CABUL: WHICH ENDED IN THE RETREAT AND DESTRUCTION OF THE BRITISH ARMY, JANUARY 1842, WITH A JOURNAL OF IMPRISONMENT IN [AFGHANISTAN](#). Philadelphia PA: Carey and Hart, 1843; London: J. Murray, 1843 (three editions); Lieut. V. Eyre (Sir Vincent Eyre, 1811-1881). PRISON SKETCHES: COMPRISING PORTRAITS OF THE CABUL PRISONERS AND OTHER SUBJECTS; ADAPTED FOR BINDING UP WITH THE JOURNALS OF LIEUT. V. EYRE, AND LADY SALE; LITHOGRAPHED BY LOWES DICKINSON. London: Dickinson and Son, [1843?]



ROBERT THE BRUCE

ROBERT THE BRUCE



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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"
in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST



Prepared: May 30, 2014



ROBERT THE BRUCE

ROBERT THE BRUCE

ARRGH AUTOMATED RESEARCH REPORT

GENERATION HOTLINE



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.



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Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.