

STAND SURE



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Robert the Bruce and Scotland’s Struggle for Independence

by Brian Hinds

Scotland’s succession crisis began in 1286 when Alexander III fell from his horse and broke his neck. Alexander’s heir to the throne was Margaret, the “Maid of Norway”, but her death in 1290 brought Scotland to the brink of civil war as two claimants emerged for the now vacant throne, John Balliol and Robert Bruce (grandfather of the more famous Robert Bruce who fought at Bannockburn). In a separate newsletter article, it was discussed how Scotland appointed Guardians to run the country until this could all be sorted out.

John Balliol had the most lawful claim, since he was descended from a male ancestor of Alexander III. He headed the powerful Balliol/Comyn faction that controlled much of the north and Galloway. The claim of Robert Bruce was closer by degree, but through a female ancestor. His powerbase was in the south, in Ayrshire and Annandale, and was backed by the powerful Stewarts.

Well, to avoid civil war, someone would have to mediate between these claimants and make a decision, and so the Guardians turned to Edward I of England as a respected king and neighbor to adjudicate the contest. Big Mistake!

Edward (and his Diplomacy Game)

Edward realized he could exploit the situation to his advantage. He invited the leaders of the Scots to a Castle, just on the English side of the border. However, the Scots declined, fearing this would give Edward symbolic authority over them. He then asked the Scots to acknowledge his over-lordship. The Scots again declined, stating they could find no historical evidence for Edward’s claims.

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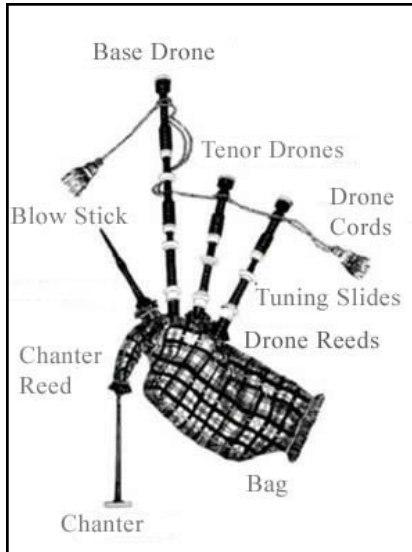
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We can be reached at admin@clanandersonsociety.org



The Anatomy of the Great Highland Bagpipe



The A'Phìob Mhor, the Great Highland Bagpipe (GHB) is the most renowned instrument of Scottish music. Today's pipes have a bag, a chanter, a blow-pipe, two tenor drones and one bass drone. Both tenor drones are tuned to one octave below the chanter's Low A, while the bass drone is tuned to two octaves below the chanter. There are four reeds in the GHB: the drones each contain one single reed and the chanter has one double reed. All of these reeds are enclosed in the wooden stock, and are not played directly as with other woodwind instruments.

Because the reeds are totally enclosed, the sound of the GHB can not be altered by changing tongue or mouth position. Notes are not separated by an act of stopping blowing. Instead, grace notes, or combinations of grace notes (embellishments) are used. The grace notes are played by quick finger movements on the chanter. The range of the GHB is nine notes.

Bagpipers are judged on expression and on technique. A beginning student will play only a practice chanter, which is also used by experienced players to learn new tunes, or to practice.

The British sovereign has had an official piper since the days of Queen Victoria. The piper plays every day at 9 AM under the Queen's window when she is in residence at any one of the 4 homes. Additionally, 12 pipers play around the table at every State Banquet.

Strange Stories - As submitted by Clan Anderson Society



Anderson
tartan ties

A few years back, our Clan Chief, Hope Vere Anderson, was visiting parts north of his Scottish home at Wyseby. He ran into a young man who was wearing an Anderson tartan tie. Of course Hope would pursue the matter with the lad, and proceeded to comment on his lovely tie. He asked the lad, who acknowledged he was indeed an Anderson, what he knew of his Anderson roots. The boy claimed to know only a little about the Anderson's, but proceeded to describe the tartan tie that he wore. He claimed to have received the tie as a gift from an American uncle, who was visiting the lad's grandfather in Denny, Scotland.

Hope listened with interest as the boy told his story. When asked about where the uncle was from, the boy explained that he was from Georgia, and that the uncle knew all about the Andersons. Hope asked who the uncle was, since he had personal friends that were knowledgeable about Andersons, who also lived in Georgia. The boy gave his uncle's name as Ted Anderson, from Savannah. Of course, Ted Anderson was the former President of Clan Anderson, and a good friend to Hope Vere. It's a small world indeed!

Genealogy - Money References in

Scottish Documents

By Paula Anderson

ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk provides assistance for those reading old documents. Likewise, a little history background is helpful to properly “decode” the references to money in wills and testaments. Scotland had its own currency prior to the 1707 Act of Union. It was withdrawn from use after that law. However, Scots money continued to be used when listing rent, wages, and the value of agricultural products.

In old Scottish testaments, money is listed with abbreviations for pounds, shillings and pence. These abbreviations are written as a superscript: above the line of text.

- Pounds were written with the abbreviation “lb” or “li” with a stroke through it.
- Shillings were written as “s” or “ss”.
- Pennies were written as “d”.

Another problem may be encountered in the writing of Roman numerals. Documents written between 1500-1750 have the following variations:

- Any series of the numerals ii or iii, the last digit is changed to a “j”: ij = 2, xiiij=13.
- Some numbers were changed: 4 (iv) may be written as iiij; 9 (ix) may be written as viiiij
- L is often used for 50, and “C/” is written for 100

Scottish Fare

BANNOCKS (Oatcakes)

4 ozs oatmeal	2 pinches baking soda
2 teaspoons melted fat (i.e. bacon fat)	1 pinch salt
3/4 tablespoons hot water	additional oatmeal for kneading

Mix dry ingredients in a bowl. Pour the melted fat into the center of the mixture. Add enough water to make a stiff paste. Cover a surface with oatmeal, and turn the mixture onto this. Divide into two halves. Roll one half into a ball and knead. Work quickly, as the paste will become difficult to work with as it cools. Roll out the mixture until it is 1/4 inch thick. Cut into a circular shape, using a plate as a template if needed. Cut the circle into quarters (called farls). Cook in a lightly greased pan for about 3 minutes, until the edges curl, turn and cook the other side. Prepare the second half as the first. The farls can also be cooked in a 375 oven for about 30 minutes or until the edges are brown. For additional bannocks, prepare separate recipes, rather than doubling.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT THE WEBSITE AT
[WWW.SCOTLANDSPEOPLE.
GOV.UK](http://WWW.SCOTLANDSPEOPLE.GOV.UK)

“These (money) abbreviations are written as a superscript”





Scotland's coastal
plains

Scotland's Geological History—Part II By: Brian Hinds

For many people, Scotland's history begins a few centuries, or maybe a couple of millennia, ago. However, many events have happened over hundreds of millions of years that have given us the land which we call Scotland. Here's the continuation of the list of ten things I learned about Scotland.

6. Scotland broke away from North America 60 million years ago

For the last 60 million years Scotland, and indeed all of Europe, has been drifting away geographically from North America. Arran, Mull, Ardnamurchan, Rum, Skye, St Kilda and Rockall represent the remains of volcanoes that formed as the crust between Europe and America split and drifted apart with the formation of the Atlantic ocean.

7. Much of Scotland is now at the bottom of the North Sea

There are sediments on the floor of the North Sea, which was eroded from the Scottish landmass. These sediments were carried away by large river systems and dumped into the deep hollow, which was then the North Sea. The river systems which carried this material gradually shaped a landscape which can still be seen in the eastern part of the country: gentle, rolling plains and plains. Some of the best examples of this landscape are the plateau areas of the Eastern Grampians, the major rivers and the coastal plains of Aberdeen, Kincardine and Angus.

8. Scotland was covered by ice at least five times

For the last two-and-a-half million years, Scotland has been covered by ice many times. Scientists have detected at least five occasions when some, if not the whole, of Scotland was covered by large icecaps and glaciers. The last of this ice only disappeared around 10,000 years ago. During this period, the erosive effect of ice changed the landscape. Areas were gently smoothed, but in some places, as in the high mountains of the Cairngorms and in the west and north-west Highlands, existing valleys were made deeper and straighter and the slopes made steeper by the gouging effects of the ice.

9. Some parts of the country are rising, others are sinking, and some sliding! Thousands of feet of ice resulted in Scotland being pressed down into the molten rock beneath its surface. When the ice melted away the land has slowly rebounded. The area centered on Rannoch Moor has risen the most because there the ice was at its thickest. In parts of Shetland, the land is actually sinking and has been doing so for a few thousand years.

One would think that Scotland is now stable and has been for many millennia. However, a closer look at many slopes in the Highlands, reveal that they have collapsed and many are still on the move. Landslides have occurred, the most spectacular being in the Quirang in northern Skye.

10. The mountain valleys were filled up. The melting of the glaciers and ice sheets dumped a great deal of rock and soil debris in the river valleys. The rivers have cut through the debris and carried it seawards, providing the material to form many of today's present beaches and dune systems.

“In parts of
Shetland, the
land is actually
sinking...”



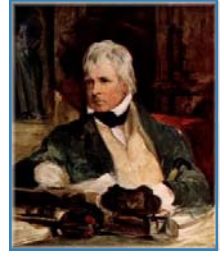
Rannoch Moor

Writer's Corner

Sir Walter Scott —Scottish novelist and poet

(1771, Edinburgh, Scotland - 1832, England)

Sir Walter Scott was educated at the University of Edinburgh, after which he apprenticed under his father as a lawyer. He grew up with the old Border tales and ballads, and dedicated his free time to exploring that countryside. Scott held public offices and in 1806, he started a printing business with James Ballantyne, which later failed. He assumed all the debts, and used proceeds from his own writing to pay them off. He authored over fifteen novels, including: Rob Roy, The Legend of Montrose, The Bride of Lammermoor, Canongate, and The Talisman. He wrote several poems, short stories, and works of non-fiction as well.



**Sir Walter
Scott**

The following is an excerpt from Rob Roy, where the narrator describes the Scotsman he meets at the Inn.

“... He had the hard features and athletic form said to be peculiar to his country, together with the national intonation and slow pedantic mode of expression, arising from a desire to avoid peculiarities of idiom or dialect. I could also observe the caution and shrewdness of his country in many of the observations which he made, and the answers which he returned. But I was not prepared for the air of easy self-possession and superiority with which he seemed to predominate over the company into which he was thrown, as it were by accident. His dress was as coarse as it could be, being still decent; and, at a time when great expense was lavished upon the wardrobe, even of the lowest who pretended to the character of gentleman, this indicated mediocrity of circumstances, if not poverty. His conversation intimated that he was engaged in the cattle trade, no very dignified professional pursuit...”

Scottish Inventors / Inventions

A continuing series on Scotland's greatest contributions to science, engineering and life...

Alexander Graham Bell 1847– 1922, was a Scottish physicist, who studied vocal physiology. He was educated at the University of Edinburgh, and emigrated to Canada and later to the U.S. He devoted much of his time to the research of hearing and speech; his mother and his wife were both deaf, influencing much of his work in acoustics. He had a long family history of elocutionists. He taught vocal physiology and elocution at Boston University. Bell experimented with the transmissions of sound telegraphically by causing electrical undulations. He was awarded the patent for the first telephone in 1876. Bell made the first transcontinental call in 1915.

Bell also held patents on the phonograph and audiometer, and conducted research on hydrofoils and aeronautics.

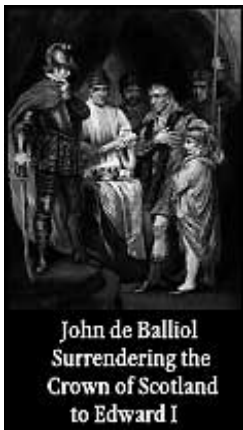


**Alexander
Graham Bell
and his first
telephone**

Robert the Bruce... continued from page 1

King John Balliol

“Edward’s army quickly stormed its wooden walls with horrific consequences for all inside. The story is, he murdered everyone inside....”

John de Balliol
Surrendering the
Crown of Scotland
to Edward I

The task then fell to the Bishop of Glasgow to tell Edward that there was no King of Scotland and therefore, the Guardians of Scotland could not surrender any Scottish sovereignty to England, since only the rightful Scottish King could do so. So far, so good...Edward's plans had been foiled, but, he still exploited medieval law to achieve his end. Edward was tasked to decide between the two claimants, *however*, if there were three or more claimants, he would have to judge. And he reasoned a judge would have to have authority.

So, Edward produced a huge list of claimants. Now Bruce and Balliol were under the immediate pressure of being first in line seeking Edward’s favor. Of the two original claimants, Bruce was the first to pay Edward homage; Balliol, seeing his kingship slipping away, followed suit later.

Edward now had what he wanted: whoever the king was to be, that claimant had inadvertently recognized English over lordship. In 1292 John Balliol was judged to be the winner and was proclaimed King of the Scots at Berwick.

No sooner was Balliol crowned than Edward began active interference in Scottish affairs, intervening in legal cases, keeping taxes and demanding Scottish troops to fight in France. As this interference increased, the Scots realized they would have to fight off Edward. This was not a task undertaken lightly as Edward had one of the most formidable military machines in Europe at the time.

In 1295-6 the Scots declared their intentions to Edward I by signing the Auld Alliance with England’s enemy, France. To Edward’s reckoning, this was a declaration of war. Edward’s response was swift. The Scottish border town of Berwick, second only to London in economic importance in medieval Britain, was sacked. Edward’s army quickly stormed its wooden walls with horrific consequences for all inside. The story is, he murdered everyone inside...

‘When the town had been taken in this way and its citizens had submitted, Edward spared no one, whatever the age or sex, and for two days streams of blood flowed from the bodies of the slain, for in his tyrannous rage he ordered 7,500 souls of both sexes to be massacred...So that mills could be turned round by the flow of their blood.’ Account of the Massacre of Berwick

Marching north, Edward crushed the Scots army at Dunbar before penetrating into the Scottish heartland, north of the Forth. King John Balliol was forced to surrender and was humiliated at Stracathro Churchyard on July 7, 1296. There he was stripped of the crown, his insignia ripped from his coat of arms (giving him the nickname “toom tabard”, meaning empty coat), before he and much of the Scots nobility were imprisoned in England. Balliol was later sent into exile on his estates in France. However, for Edward, ritual humiliation of the Scottish king was not enough.

To be continued in the next issue!

Language Library – Scottish Place Names

Place names in a country tell much of the layers of the people and their languages. Looking at Scottish history backwards, immigrants to Scotland include Asians (from British colonies), Italians and Poles escaping oppression, French-speaking Normans, Vikings, Anglo-Saxons, Scots and the Picts, who fought the Romans in the first century.

The Picts influenced place names in the Eastern part of Scotland. Names beginning with “PIT” referenced early Pictish farms. Such is the case with Pitlochry, Pitsligo and Pittenweem. Names starting with “ABER” referred to places where two rivers meet, or a river meets the sea, as in Aberdeen, Abernathy and Aberfeldy.

The Gaelic speaking Scots replaced the name “ABER” with “INVER”, such as for Inverness and Inverurie. The prefix “KIN” was also used, to refer to the head or top of something, such as with Kinross, Kinlochewe. Sometimes combinations of influences can be seen as with the Picts and Scots place name of Kincardine. Here KIN is joined with CARDEN, which is the Pictish word for thicket.

The Anglo-Saxon influence shows up in names such as Haddington and Coldingham. The Norse effect is seen in names such as Tinwald, Dingwall and Tingwall. In fact the Sutherland name is derived from the Scandinavian influence, because it was the southern-most province of Norse settlements.

When English took hold in Scotland, towns were called “burghs”, and are/were pronounced like “burra”.

The following are a few place names found in the Argyll district, which includes Stirling, Loch Lomond, Trossachs, and the Isles. The place name meaning is listed for informational purposes.

Arran: Gaelic aran; a “high place”

Cairndow: carn: “a heap of stones” plus dubh: “black”

Carrick: carraig: “rock”

Clyde: formerly called Clota: “the washer” or “strong flowing one”

Dunoon: Dun: a “fort”; amhuin: “stream, river, water” (The fort by the water)

Loch Eck: Eck: a “horse”; horse loch

Paisley: Gaelic “paislig”: “church”/ “churchyard”

Rothsay: “Roths” refers to Ruari (progenitor of the MacDonalds) plus the Norse a / ay: an “island”

Tighnabruaich: Tigh; a “house”; plus “an”: “of the”; plus bruaich, brae: “bank”. Therefore: The house on the brae.

