



Dabh Ghlase

The Newsletter of the Clan Douglas Society of North America

VOL 50 ISSUE 2
JUNE 2023

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Remembering Andy Hillhouse

by Harold Edington



Black Douglas © 2014 by Andrew Hillhouse

Given permission to do so by the artist, this particular piece of art has been incorporated into the front cover banner of our **Dabh Ghlase** newsletter since December 2015.

NEWSLETTER FOUNDER Gilbert F. Douglas, JR. MD (deceased)

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Chuck Mirabile (Past Pres)

.....
.....

Assistant Vice-President (East)

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HELP CDSNA MOVE FORWARD!
BECOME A REGENT Or Co-REGENT

REGENTS

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

Gilbert F. Douglas III
205-222-7664
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ARIZONA

Barbara J. Wise
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Mark & Cora Peterson
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corampeterson@gmail.com

CALIFORNIA (South)

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714-718-1571
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COLORADO

Chuck Mirabile
720-934-6901
loudbeak@yahoo.com

FLORIDA (Central)

Jeff & Mona Sparks
407-721-3775
jtsparks1@gmail.com

FLORIDA (South)

Elizabeth Douglass & Russell Douglass
954-296-1834 786-853-1349
edouglass@bellsouth.net
russellpipes4x4@gmail.com

FLORIDA (Northeast) & GEORGIA (South)

Dennis Conrad
904-772-8102
sarahsdaddy@comcast.net

GEORGIA (North)

Doug Isbecque
770-813-0789
drcl.bel@gmail.com

HAWAII

James Douglas Putnam
808-554-1944
jamesputnam85@gmail.com

IDAHO - Regent wanted for Boise, ID -- Treasure Valley Highland Games & Celtic Festival

ILLINOIS (Central)

Timothy Kirkpatrick
253-359-7069
kirkpatrick79@yahoo.com

ILLINOIS (North) - Regent wanted for the Chicago area

INDIANA

Jim & Sandy Douglas
765-296-2710
sandyd77@outlook.com

IOWA -- Regent wanted for the Quad City area

KANSAS --- Regent wanted for Wichita area

KENTUCKY --- Regent wanted

LOUISIANA -- Regent/Co-Regent wanted for the Minden area

MAINE

Chris Mogensen
alwayskilted@gmail.com

MARYLAND

James Agnew
571-278-6056
jim.agnew67@gmail.com

MICHIGAN

Mary Clark
734-301-8472
MICDSNA@gmail.com

MINNESOTA (North)

John M. Glendenning, Jr.
218-728-4998
jglen@charter.net

MINNESOTA (South)

Brooke Kenney
612-655-8954
brooke@brotheroke.com

MISSISSIPPI -- Regent/Co-Regent wanted

MISSOURI

Harold Edington
816-529-7764
clan.douglas@yahoo.com

MONTANA - Regents wanted for 1 or all

Billings, MT -- Celtic Classic Festival
Hamilton, MT -- Bitterroot Celtic Games
Kalispell, MT -- Flathead Celtic Festival
One, two, or all three are available

NEVADA (North -- Reno area)

Richard & Holly Bromley
775-530-5667
rlbrich@aol.com

NEVADA (South -- Las Vegas area)

See CALIFORNIA (South) Regent info

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Regents wanted

NEW MEXICO

Eric Vigil
575-749-1275
ericvigil@yahoo.com

NEW YORK

Daneen Muehlbauer
716-283-5247
clan_douglas.ny51@yahoo.com

NORTH CAROLINA

Samuel Thayer
803-389-3550
clandouglasncregent@gmail.com

NC Co-Regent

Chris Mogensen
alwayskilted@gmail.com

OHIO --- See Michigan Regent Info

OKLAHOMA

Jody Blaylock
405-985-9704
jmblaylock@yahoo.com

OREGON (North)

Carol Bianchini
971-300-8593
clandouglaspnw@aol.com

OREGON (South)

Dakotah Blair
541-636-7535
dakotahblair@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA --- Regent wanted

SOUTH CAROLINA Co-Regent

Thelma Hein
843-780-8357
ladyhein@yahoo.com

SOUTH CAROLINA Co-Regent

Curtis Rowell
434-305-4601
crowell001@gmail.com

SOUTH DAKOTA -- Regent wanted for Aberdeen, SD -- Aberdeen Highland Games

TENNESSEE (West)

Derek & Brittany Douglas
615-691-0939
derek@douglas-clan.com

TENNESSEE (East)

Tyson & Betsy Chastain
865-385-0972 (please text first)
hsbtennessee@yahoo.com

TEXAS (North)

Matthew Douglas
214-493-6442
matthew.douglas75@gmail.com

TEXAS (South) --- Regents and/or Co-Regents wanted

UTAH

Trenton Duke
435-459-2562
trentduke95@outlook.com

UTAH Co-Regent wanted for Salt Lake City area Utah Scottish Festival

VIRGINIA Co-Regent

Scott Douglas
571-426-3826
arlyndoug@aol.com

VIRGINIA Co-Regent

Sean Morton
504-875-9540
mountainmanmorton@gmail.com

WASHINGTON

John Blakemore
510-484-3001
2doalameda@gmail.com

WEST VIRGINIA Co-Regents

Tyler Agnew
tyler.agnew21@gmail.com

WISCONSIN

Lori Garbett
414-256-0806
grabit1112@sbcglobal.net

WYOMING -- Regent wanted for Cheyenne and/or Jackson areas

ADMINISTRATORS

Storekeeper

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213 Coleton Lane
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352-603-3868
douglasclanstore@gmail.com

Web Editors

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mpeterson1019@comcast.net

Harold Edington
clan.douglas@yahoo.com

Carol J Morton-Bianchini
DouglasSecretary@comcast.net

Historical Article Editors

Dr. Callum Watson
Battle Coordinator at the Battle of
Bannockburn Visitor Centre
just outside Stirling

Mr. Ian Douglas
Author, Photographer
Whitchurch, Hampton, UK

Newsletter Editor

Harold Edington
11907 E. Alberta St.
Sugar Creek, MO 64054
Phone: 816 529 7764
clan.douglas@yahoo.com

REGENTS (cont.)

If there is a local Scottish or Celtic event in your area that invites clans but has no Clan Douglas representative, consider becoming our Douglas Regent for that event.

Regions needing a Regent are highlighted in yellow.

Even if you are available to represent CDSNA at just one festival a year, that is so much better than no Douglas representation at all.

INTERNATIONAL REGENTS

CANADA – Regents wanted

*** BRITISH COLUMBIA --- Vacant

*** NEW BRUNSWICK -- Vacant

*** ONTARIO --- Vacant

AUSTRALIA - Contact the
Clan Douglas Society of Australia
Anne Breust
0419 620 914
anne.breust@bigpond.com

BENELUX
(Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg)
Murray Frick
470-232-8060
murrayfrick@att.net

SPAIN
Leopoldo Fernández de Angulo y Gómez
de las Cortinas
Phone: 34 954 277 365
Cell: 34 639 019 632
regentclandouglas@gmail.com

March to your own drumbeat...
Become a CDSNA Regent



Looking for a different kind of
gift for an adult family member?
Consider giving the gift
of an annual membership (\$20) to
The Clan Douglas Society.

Another Douglas
is a member in Good Standing in the
Clan Douglas Society
of North America
clandouglasociety.org
member # 5000
expires 01/2023
MM/YYYY



Click here to visit the
JOIN CDSNA
Section of the Clan Website.
Download a form
& pay online via Paypal.

President's Comments ...

Dear Family,

One big advantage about being the President is that I can go to Highland Games where I am not the Regent and help out without being the one responsible for manning the tent. It is a different kind of experience when you are not the one in the tent. Not being the Regent allows me to enjoy the freedom of seeing all the event has to offer knowing that someone else is in the tent for the public.

One festival I was able to enjoy this Spring was in Grapevine, Texas where I spent some time with our Texas Regent Matthew Douglas. My plan was to give Matthew some free time to be away from the Douglas tent but the high winds that day prompted the clans to pull down their tents a couple of hours earlier than planned. Despite the winds, I was still able to enjoy the bands and chat with a number of people.



Matthew does a great job in Texas but he is our only Texas Regent at this time. If you live in Texas, consider becoming a Douglas Regent. Several Scottish and Celtic events are held in Texas each year and the state is simply too large for one man to be expected to handle it all. If being a Regent is not possible for you but you love Scottish games, be a Tent Greeter for your local Regent. Man the tent for brief periods to give your Regent a well-deserved break. Stick around until the end of the day and help your Regent tear down. It makes a BIG difference to the Regent and helps to create the community atmosphere we all want.

Building a Douglas community at your local event around your Douglas tent draws visitors in. In southern California, we had a tent that looked like a castle and a lot of Douglas members around. Lots of guests stopped by for stories and to learn more about Clan Douglas.



The Douglas tent in Grapevine, TX



I took Mary to the Las Vegas Highland Games in April. It was nice to get back. For years we served as the Southern Nevada Regents as well as the Southern California Regents. Regent Alex Kirkland has taken over as Southern California and Southern Nevada Regent for the past two years. He is doing a great job. As Southern California Regents, Mary and I decided to build a Tent Castle. We had five members building the Castle including Alex Kirkland and Eric "the Brown" Vigil who is now our CDSNA New Mexico Regent. Here is a photo of the Tent Castle from back in the day.



More than 40 clans and societies were in attendance at the Costa Mesa Scottish Fest along with pipers and drummers, dancers, Scottish Heavy athletes, and medieval battle and jousting reenactors. At the festival last weekend in May in Costa Mesa, CA, I met five Douglases, a fellow Dickey, and a Kirkpatrick. One fellow I met was Dave Melton, Band Major for Pasadena Pipe Band. After talking for a while, I let him know he was actually related to the line of the Red Douglas Earls of Angus.



Regent Alex with me at Las Vegas

I hope everyone is thinking about the 2024 GMM that will be held the same weekend as Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina next year. This will be the CDSNA's 50th anniversary as a clan society and it would be fabulous to honor the memories of the founders of the Clan Douglas Society at the place where it all began. The Board has invited some very special guests for this GMM: John Stewart Sholto Douglas, 22nd Earl of Morton and William Douglas of the Douglas Archives and his wife Frances.



The 2024 GMM will be a once in a lifetime event and you won't want to miss it.

As always, I would love to hear from some of you. I want CDSNA to become a more open, involved, and, most of all, **active** Society appreciated and enjoyed by all of our Clan Douglas family. My email: clandouglas@socal.rr.com

Until next quarter,
Yours Aye,
CDSNA President Tim Tyler



Warlord - Black Douglas Raiding Party

by Artist Andrew Hillhouse

After Bannockburn Douglas repeatedly raided the northern counties of England where his cunning and merciless exploits earned him a fierce reputation. Soon, the mere rumour of his approach or word that his three starred banner had been seen in the locale quickly undid the resolve of his enemies.

Vice-President's Comments ...

Greetings Clan Douglas,

It is good to see the Scottish Games have kicked off already this year and Florida, as always, seems to be leading the way. To our Regents who attend these games: great job! It is always great to see the photos of how the games are doing in your neck of the woods, keep up the good work you all do. As the games season kicks off and other games are happening around the country, a big thank you to all the Regents who represent Clan Douglas at their local events. We cannot thank you enough for representing Clan Douglas and our heritage.

Speaking to Regents... for those of you who were part of one of our CDSNA Regents Zoom meetings, thank you for participating. We hope to have more such meetings – perhaps one every quarter -- in the future. Networking with one another and sharing ideas for best tent practices and best tent decorations will always lead to our members to better experiences at our Douglas tents. It will also allow for a better Regent Guidebook for future Regents.

Speaking of Regents... who else wants to be a Regent? CDSNA needs Regents in areas that have no Clan Douglas Representation. It is for sure a Labor of Love to be a Regent, but Clan Douglas is offering incentives to represent us at the games throughout North America. Please contact myself, Cora Peterson or Harold Edington with any questions you might have and what is involved being a Regent.

Now that I have done my appeal for Regents, ***I would also like to mention our Clan Store Goods.*** We have shirts, kilt pins, cap badges, polo shirts, cookbooks and more. If you are going to attend a game or a function and you want to show off your Douglas pride, please consider ordering our store goods. These monies help generate funds for Clan Douglas to contribute to Regents to be at the games, so check out our website and check out our store goods on our website: www.clandouglassociety.org. And while you are at it, if you or a family member are not already a member of Clan Douglas, sign up online. It costs only \$20.00 per year to be a member and you will receive quarterly newsletters and information on games going on throughout North America and beyond.

My comments would not be complete unless I mentioned Clan Douglas will be celebrating its 50 year anniversary during the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina in ***July of 2024***. At that time we will be holding elections, as well as any official business that needs to be addressed to the general membership. We are expecting a great turnout and our ***Anniversary Games Committee*** is working diligently toward getting all of the arrangements and venue nailed down. In the very near future we will post information on our website and in the newsletter. Please consider going so we can celebrate this milestone and show all the Clans out there how strong Clan Douglas is.

Best Regards

Mark A. Peterson

CDSNA Vice President



At a Scottish/Celtic event, the only thing worse seeing than an empty Clan Douglas tent is no Clan Douglas tent at all.

Secretary's Report ...



CLAN DOUGLAS SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, LTD.

MEETING Minutes for Saturday, May 20, 2023

9:03 am to 10:25 am PST

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Secretary established quorum present (Tim Tyler, Mark Peterson, Carol Morton-Bianchini, Tom Douglas). Chuck Mirabile absent.
3. Guest in attendance – Harold Edington. Cora Peterson is attending another event.
4. Officers' and Storekeepers' Reports
 - a. President, Tim Tyler – Attended two events: Las Vegas, NV, & Dallas, TX
 - b. Vice President, Mark Peterson – Eastern Regents Meeting with Harold Edington.
 - c. Treasurer, Tom Douglas – Checking \$18,160.27 and Investment \$120,048.60.
 - d. Secretary, Carol Morton-Bianchini – New Members 18, Renewals 12, 2 Life Members.
 - e. Editor & Asst VP East, Harold Edington – Held Eastern Regents Meeting with Mark Peterson. Jerry Douglas is being considered for the Louisiana Regent position.
 - f. Asst VP West, Cora Peterson – Per Mark – setup Western Regents meeting for June 17, 2023 and email sent to regents.
 - g. Cassie Douglas, Storekeeper – Per Tom – Ordering name tags for Tim Tyler, Present, Carol Morton-Bianchini, Secretary, Curtis Rowell needs a banner, Tim Tyler ask for a 10' banner to be sent to him. Tom asked everyone to email Cassie with the details.
5. Old Business
 - a. Approved Meeting Minutes from the CDSNA Board Meeting on February 18, 2023 and Emergency GMM Meeting Minutes.
 - b. 2024 CDSNA GMM – Mark sending email to Jim Morton with approval for signing contracts for venue and catering for the 50th GMM Anniversary event. Details for items for 50th in discussion i.e. bag with 50th logo.
 - c. Website Update – Domain will eventually be clandouglassociety.org for the new website. A temporary website domain, currently provided by website host, will be used to test the store. If this does not work, then an alternate domain name will be purchased for testing. Regents to be reviewed by Asst. VPs for accuracy due to retirement and life changes. A page for the GMM will be made, complete store with payment and banking information, and approve policies, which were emailed on

Secretary's Report ...

5/20/2023. A travel suggestions page for information purposes has been developed and will be expanded as suggestions are forwarded by the Board and membership.

6. New Business

- a. The Board through Harold approved revisions for the National elections and eVote process in the Bylaws. The Bylaw revisions will be advertised for membership approval in March 2024 Dubh Ghlase.
- b. Slate of Officers updated by Tim Tyler. Arlyn Scott Douglas was suggested for Vice President. Nominee to be invited to future Board Meeting to experience an active meeting and to ask questions.
- c. Two scholarships were awarded to Douglas members, Kendall Blausner and Olivia Bishop, both highland dance champions. They will both travel to Portland, Oregon to compete in the National Championships this summer.
- d. A scholarship has been awarded to William Douglas, Douglas Archives, in the amount of \$250.00. William is the Administrator of www.douglashistory.co.uk. A website devoted to genealogy, history, biographies, community forum, and DNA information about Clan Douglas.
- e. Next Board Meeting August 19, 2023 - 9 am PST, 11 am CST, and 12 EST.

eVote versus GMM Vote

The need to create a process for digital/email voting (like we did last time) is being suggested. The current Bylaws say an election is held at the GMM with those present (if a quorum is reached.) We need more participation and transparency in our elections.

The Board gives approval to the Bylaws Committee to propose the following voting revision to be more inclusive of its membership to vote in the election:

Section 4. Election of National Officers – the Election Year Process:

1. National Officers shall be elected every third year at the end of a President's term. The current term is 2021-2024.
2. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of 2-5 members as per Article IX, Section 5 of these Bylaws, by JANUARY 15th (currently 1/15/2024) of the final year of the President's term of office.

Secretary's Report ...

3. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of candidates for offices to be voted on – one name per office -- to the Secretary on or before FEBRUARY 1st (2/1/2024) of the year in which elections are to be held.

4. The Secretary will certify that all candidates presented are Regular Members current in their annual dues, as defined in Article III, section 1, and eligible to hold office. The slate of certified candidates will be provided to all active members in the MARCH (2024) issue of Dubh Ghlasé.

5. Any Regular Member or Voting Affiliate Member may nominate an alternative candidate for any office. The candidate(s) name(s) must be provided in writing to the Secretary by MARCH 30th (2024). The Secretary will contact the candidate to verify their agreement to be nominated and certify they are eligible to hold office.

6. Any updated slate of candidates will be provided to all active members by APRIL 30th. (i.e. 4/30/2024)

7. Voting shall take place from just after midnight on the first Saturday in JUNE until midnight on the second Saturday in JUNE. (i.e. 6/1/2024 – 6/8/2024)

8. Election results will be reported to membership and published in the SEPTEMBER (i.e. Sept 2024) issue of Dubh Ghlasé.

9. Newly elected National Officers will assume their office on DECEMBER 1st. (i.e. December 1, 2024)

(Note: Seating New Officers on DEC 1st will allow for the full voting process to conclude, and member notifications made before the new Board is seated.)

Meeting closed with a prayer from Harold Edington.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am on May 20, 2023.

Respectfully,

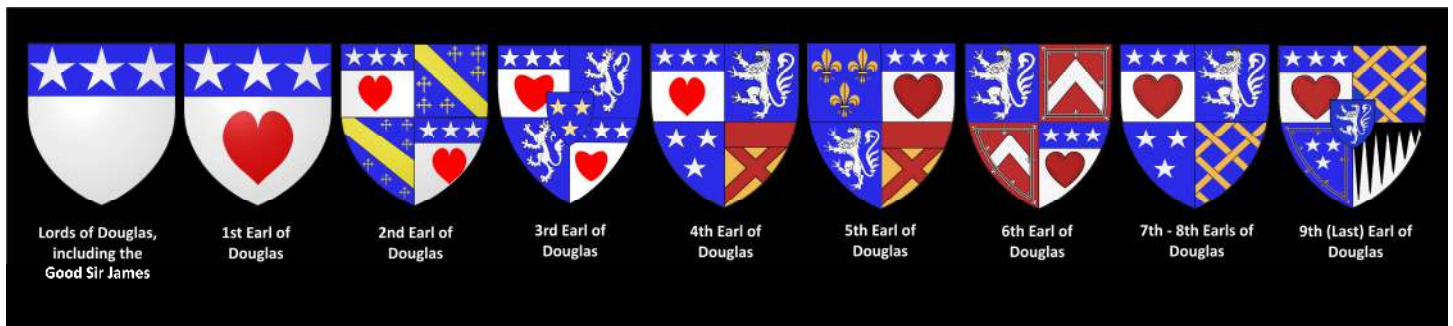
Carol Morton-Bianchini, Secretary
Clan Douglas Society of North America, Ltd.

Please forward any [changes in email address, phone number, or home address to DouglasSecretary@comcast.net](#). Your continued delivery of the Dubh Ghlasé newsletter is dependent on the Douglas Secretary having your current email address.

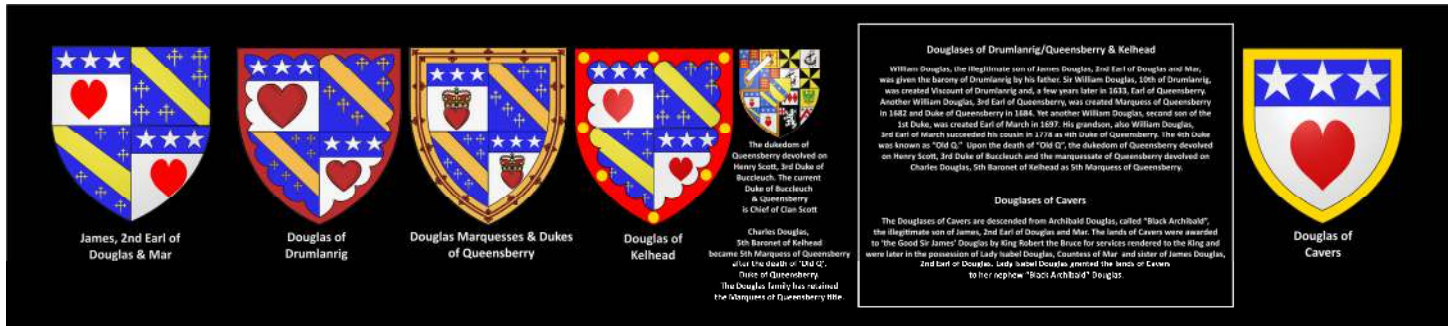
Secretary's Report ...

Cead mìle fáilte to our new members this quarter.
Welcome to the Clan Douglas Society.

- 4354 Battick, Nancy C.; Dover-Foxcroft, ME
- 4355 Dyar, Preston; Orlando, FL
- 4356 Davis, Donald; Surfside Beach, SC
- 4357 Brewer, Michael Douglas; Columbia, MO
- 4358 Wingler, Amanda; Appling, GA
- 4359 Hamilton, Richard; Palm Coast, FL
- 4360 Slade, Lorena; Crescent City, FL
- 4361 Pointer, Gina; Deltona, FL
- 4362 Williams, Laurie; Plant City, FL
- 4363 Bishop, Joan; McKinney, TX
- 4364 Edwards, Amy; Jasper, AL
- 4365 Bowling, Debbie L; Benson, AZ
- 4366 Stephens, Patrick; Summerville, SC
- 4367 Fritchman, Randall; Sevierville, TN
- 4368 Causey, Jake; Maryville, TN
- 4369 Larson, Erik; Hixson, TN
- 4370 Douglas, Jay & Kim; Stroud, OK
- 4371 Young, Cameron; St. Louis, MO



Lords of Douglas, including the Good Sir James 1st Earl of Douglas 2nd Earl of Douglas 3rd Earl of Douglas 4th Earl of Douglas 5th Earl of Douglas 6th Earl of Douglas 7th - 8th Earls of Douglas 9th (Last) Earl of Douglas



James, 2nd Earl of Douglas & Mar Douglas of Drumlanrig Douglas Marquesses & Dukes of Queensberry Douglas of Kelhead Douglas of Cavers

Douglases of Drumlanrig/Queensberry & Kelhead

William Douglas, the illegitimate son of James Douglas, 2nd Earl of Douglas and Mar, was given the barony of Drumlanrig by his father. Sir William Douglas, 10th of Drumlanrig, was created Viscount of Drumlanrig and, a few years later in 1633, Earl of Queensberry. Another William Douglas, 3rd Earl of Queensberry, was created Marquess of Queensberry in 1682 and Duke of Queensberry in 1684. Yet another William Douglas, second son of the 1st Duke, was created Earl of March in 1697. His grandson, also William Douglas, 3rd Earl of March succeeded his cousin as 11th Earl of Queensberry. The 19th Duke was known as "Old Q." Upon the death of "Old Q.", the dukedom of Queensberry devolved on Henry Scott, 3rd Duke of Buccleuch and the marquessate of Queensberry devolved on Charles Douglas, 5th Baronet of Kelhead as 5th Marquess of Queensberry.

Douglases of Cavers

The Douglases of Cavers are descended from Archibald Douglas, called "Black Archibald", the illegitimate son of James, 2nd Earl of Douglas and Mar. The lands of Cavers were awarded to the Good Sir James' Douglas by King Robert the Bruce for services rendered to the King and were later in the possession of Lady Isabel Douglas, Countess of Mar, and sister of James Douglas, 2nd Earl of Douglas. Lady Isabel Douglas entered the nunnery of Cavers to her nephew "Black Archibald" Douglas.

The dukedom of Queensberry devolved on Henry Scott, 3rd Duke of Buccleuch. The current Duke of Buccleuch & Queensberry is Chief of Clan Scott.

Charles Douglas, 5th Baronet of Kelhead became 5th Marquess of Queensberry at the death of "Old Q.", Duke of Queensberry. The Douglas family has retained the Marquess of Queensberry title.

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
 RENEWING MEMBERSHIP FORM

↑ Check one above DATE: _____ / _____ / _____

Clan Douglas Society
of North America



TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS & DUES: (MAKE A SELECTION)

ONE YEAR: \$20 THREE YEARS: \$55

LIFE, if UNDER 60 years old: \$300 → LIFE, INSTALLMENT: \$75

LIFE, if OVER 60 years old: \$200 → LIFE, INSTALLMENT: \$50

LIFE MEMBERSHIP MAY BE PAID IN FOUR EQUAL INSTALLMENTS

Dues are payable in US currency or equivalent currency of applicant's home country at the exchange rate at time of payment.

PLEASE INDICATE PAYMENT TYPE: PAYPAL CHECK CASH OTHER, _____

*Pay via PAYPAL: <http://clandouglassociety.org/join-cdsna/>

**If paying by check, make payable to CLAN DOUGLAS SOCIETY

***REQUIRED CONTACT INFORMATION FOR NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS (Please Print)**

*NAME: _____

* EMAIL: _____ *PHONE: _____

The CDSNA *Dabh Ghlase* Newsletter is digital only & will be emailed to your email address of record.

Do you possess any skills (Web Design, IT, Leadership, etc.) or have an interest in any activity or service you would be willing to share with CDSNA? Please list.

↓ ↓FOR NEW APPLICANTS ONLY (please print) ↓ ↓

Family or Sept Affiliation (List all that apply): _____

Spouse's/Partner's Name: _____

Children under 18: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE/ PROV: _____ ZIP: _____



- Attn Regent: Scan & Email completed form to:

Carol Morton-Bianchini, Secretary
 PO Box 6974
 Portland, OR 97228

(Call/Text) 971.300.8593 (Email) DouglasSecretary@comcast.net

REGENT receiving Application:



July 11 - 14
(Thu - Sun),
2024

**50th Anniversary Celebration
and General Members Meeting**

Please join us in 2024...

when we celebrate the **50TH ANNIVERSARY** of the
Clan Douglas Society of North America

in conjunction with the General Members Meeting
at the 2024 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, (near Boone, NC).

If you have never attended the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games
and you would like a sneak peek at all the event has to offer,
visit the festival's website for a look at what is planned for 2023.

www.GMHG.org

*And then imagine how much
more grand it will be in 2024*



GMM HOST HOTEL
TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT® SUITES BOONE
 1110 Meadowview Drive, Boone, North Carolina, USA, 28607
 Toll Free: +1-828-386-1717

Make your reservations now!

CDSNA has a block of 40 rooms.
 The rate is \$139 per night
 plus 12.75% Room & Occupancy Tax
 for either King or
 Queen Double standard rooms.



Click on the link to [RESERVE MY ROOM](#). Verify your dates of stay before finalizing reservation.



**Our 2024 GMM Dinner & Gathering
 will be held Saturday, July 13, 2024
 at The Barn at Cornerstone
 in Banner Elk, NC beginning at 6:00 pm.
 There will be a catered buffet dinner,
 open bar and entertainment.**

**With Special Guests
 John Stewart Sholto Douglas,
 22nd Earl of Morton
 and
 William & Frances Douglas
 of the Douglas Archives**



**Further information will be available
 in upcoming newsletters.**



The Editor's Ramblings ...

Son of a Glitch!

I have experienced some severe storms around me in past years and usually, once I hear thunder close by, I am able to shut down my computer before the serious stuff is overhead. But in early May, the sky darkened suddenly and quickly ... then without warning **FLASH/BOOM!** The lightning and resultant thunder shook the house and couldn't have been more than a hundred yards away. I was just in the process of saving the file I was working on – this very newsletter (well, *almost* this very newsletter) – and the computer flashed OFF then ON again a scant three seconds later. I shut everything down as fast as I could.

Much later in that day, after the storms were long past, I restarted the computer and pulled up the newsletter. I started in shocked frustration after realizing that the newsletter file stopped scrolling down after page 27 and nothing else existed. And the other “backup” copy that I had thought I was saving opened as a single blank page. I will not lie; I used some very **RED language** for the next several minutes!

I spent the next five days digging through my emails and reconstructing the Games Reports sent to me by Regents. I spent a day reopening the online “*History of the House of Douglas*” book to reformat and add the reprinted pages. I was fortunate to find an earlier draft of my “Remembering Andy Hillhouse” article and reconstruct the current article from that. Short story shorter ... All is good! So, as you read and enjoy this newsletter, join me in giving thanks to *The One Who Gives Patience In All Things*.

“Remembering Andy Hillhouse”

What a talented artist he was! And what a friend to CDSNA! The article is short but sincere and I am not alone in lamenting his passing nor am I alone in admiring his amazing artistic contributions. My hope is this small remembrance will move several of you to appreciate a bit of Andy's creativity and genius, as well.

To Reprint or not Reprint... That is the question! And it has been answered.

For the past few issues of *Dabh Ghlase*, I have been reprinting chapters from *out-of-print Douglas-themed books*. Last newsletter I questioned myself about continuing – thus the question above. I was pleased to hear from four different members telling me I should continue the reprints... so I shall continue.

If you have been reading and enjoying, please comment on the Clan Douglas Society of North America, Ltd. Group found on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/clandouglassociety>).

Add YOUR voice to our News From All Over

This section of the newsletter is often filled with the games reports of our various Regents... but last issue I mentioned something which bears repeating: **This section is also a place for you to submit reports of Scottish/Celtic themed events you attend, as well.** You may have attended an event that did not have Clan Douglas representation. If that is the case, your narrative of the event may be just the thing to encourage a Regent to attend the event in the future.

But I want you all to know this, as well: Even if a Clan Douglas tent was at a particular festival you attended, your thoughts, views, and opinions of the event are just as valid as the Regents' narrative and I would encourage you to share your thoughts with the Editor for publication alongside the Regent's narrative. If you are up for this, please send some photos – people shots are better than scenery shots – with descriptions of who or what and where. Sharing your experiences may give a nudge to another member to do the same. The end result will be a better, more interactive, and more enjoyable quarterly publication.



Are You a Torchbearer?

I was recently asked, "Are you thinking about passing the torch as the newsletter editor?" I answered (with kudos to Gloria Steinem), "I think it would be better for me to keep my torch -- and use it to light the torches of others."

In 2024, I will be celebrating my 11th year as the *Dabh Ghlase* newsletter editor; that will be an amazing one-sixth of my life. A quick scan through the history of the newsletter indicates that in 2024 I will have been newsletter editor longer than any previous editor (a few editors served for 10 years). I believe it would be nice to have an apprentice editor – someone who could ease into things over the next year or so -- who would then be willing to take charge of the newsletter beginning in 2025. Are you interested? If so, shoot me an email – clan.douglas@yahoo.com -- and we can talk more about it.

The 2024 GMM – Celebrating 50 years as a Society

The 2024 GMM will be held concurrent with the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in 2024. The GMM dinner will be at a venue in Banner Elk, NC just a handful of miles away from Grandfather Mountain. This promises to be BIG, folks. 50 YEARS as a Society! And while Life can throw us all a curve over the next year, the 2024 GMM will feature some guests you do not want to miss.

How would you like to meet and chat with John Stewart Sholto Douglas, 22nd Earl of Morton? Or maybe talk about *the Douglas Archives* with its owner/administrator William Douglas?

Well now, here is the Thing... Come to the 2024 GMM and you should be able to meet both of these gentlemen. Needless to say, it will probably be so much easier and less expensive for you to travel to North Carolina for the GMM in 2024 than it would be to travel to Scotland and hope to chance a meeting with either of them. Seriously! It's the 50 Year Celebration of CDSNA as a Society and it will only happen this once. Be there!

'Edward the Ballioll swne/past, and crownyd him at scune':

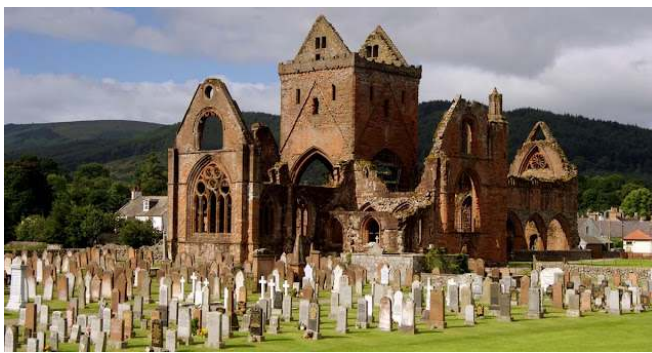
A Life of Edward Balliol, King of Scots c. 1281-1364

By Dr. Callum Watson

On September 24, 1332, Edward Balliol was crowned King of Scots at Scone. Duncan, earl of Fife, played the traditional role associated with his title by placing the crown on Edward's head, while the new king was anointed by William Sinclair, Bishop of Dunkeld. In attendance for the ceremony were Malise, earl of Strathearn, Patrick Dunbar, earl of March, David Strathbogie, earl of Atholl, Henry Beaumont, earl of Buchan in right of his wife Alice Comyn, and various other lesser nobles and clergymen from central Scotland. The problem, however, was that there was already a living King of Scots - David II, who had been crowned in the same place (and in some of the same company) the previous November. Balliol was pressing a claim through his father John, who had been King of Scots from 1292-6 but had been removed from power following an English invasion, and his coronation had only been made possible by what amounted to a private invasion of Scotland that he had taken part in that summer. Today's blog post will examine Balliol's life and career, and the significance of his brief, contested reign.

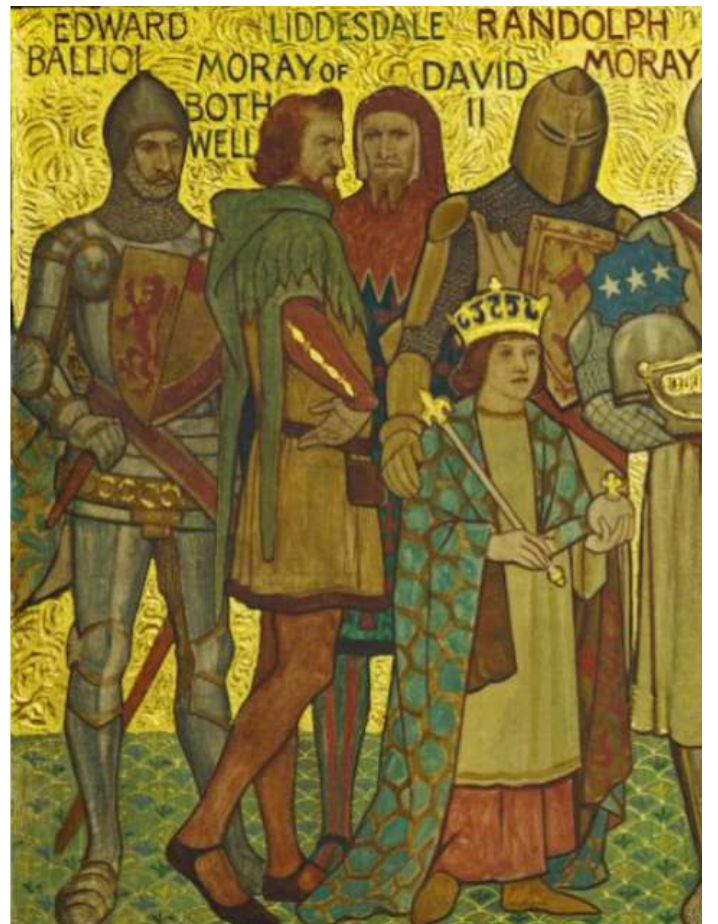
'Edward, son of the king of Scotland': Early Life, c. 1281-1296

Edward was the eldest (perhaps only) son of John Balliol, lord of Barnard Castle in England and heir to the lordship of Galloway in Scotland, and Isabella, daughter of John de Warenne, 6th earl of Surrey. The precise date of his birth is uncertain, but has generally been assumed to be around 1281 since his parents were married in February of that year. Although the lordship of Galloway was one of the great regional lordships in Scotland - and thus a far more prestigious prize than the family's English holdings - at the time of Edward's birth the Balliols considered themselves to be English barons rather than Scottish lairds. Even Edward's name - likely chosen in honour of the English king at the time of his birth, Edward I - reflects this fact. Indeed, the late fourteenth-century *Chronicle of Melrose* claims that Edward I was the one who lifted the young Balliol heir from the font during his baptism and announced his name to the congregation, thus becoming his godfather. Nevertheless, it would be



Sweetheart Abbey (Dulce Cor) in Galloway. Edward Balliol's grandmother Dervorguilla, Lady of Galloway, founded Sweetheart in 1273 in memory of her husband, whose embalmed heart she carried with her until she herself was interred here in 1290. As such, the abbey serves as a potent physical manifestation of the family's influence in south-west Scotland.

Image source: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/sweetheart-abbey/>



A detail from the magnificent processional frieze at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery on Queen's Street in Edinburgh, depicting Balliol alongside several other key participants in the Second War of Scottish Independence. Balliol is shown in armour and bearing a shield decorated with the royal arms of Scotland impaled with the Balliol arms, cutting a far more martial figure than he does in the written record. To his left are Sir Andrew Murray of Bothwell and Sir William Douglas of Liddesdale, two of the most successful Scottish war leaders during this conflict, while Balliol's rival David II is shown under the protective gaze of his cousin Thomas Randolph, earl of Moray. Image source: <https://www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/159703/processional-frieze-great-hall-scottish-national-portrait-gallery>

Scottish politics that presented the Balliols with their most promising opportunity for dramatic social advancement in the late thirteenth-century. The deaths of King Alexander III of Scotland in 1286 and that of his granddaughter Margaret, Maid of Norway, in 1290 left Edward's father John Balliol with the strongest claim to the Scottish throne. This descended through John's mother Dervorguilla, herself a great-great granddaughter of King David I. Despite the strength of this claim, John's accession was neither swift nor easy. His claim was contested most fiercely by Robert (V) Bruce, lord of Annandale, and to prevent the community descending into factionalism and possibly even civil war the Guardians of Scotland - a council appointed to govern the realm in response to Alexander's death in 1286 - invited the English king (the late king's brother-in-law and an internationally-renowned legal expert) to mediate the dispute. After some lengthy and at times complex legal wrangling, Edward I found in favour of



John Balliol, King of Scots from 1292-6, as depicted in the Forman Armorial of 1562. His torn surcoat, broken crown and splintered sceptre reflect his posthumous reputation as 'Toom Tabard' ('Empty Coat'). He left his son claims to lands and titles across three kingdoms - Scotland, England and France - but Edward Balliol would have tremendous troubles throughout his life to enjoy any of these for long. Image source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Balliol.jpg

the Continent against King Philippe IV of France. Naturally, this situation was untenable for a Scottish political community that had worked so hard to maintain its laws and institutions through the crisis years of 1286-92, and when King John proved unable to effectively resist King Edward's ambitions they even proved willing to use the precedent set by the earlier appointment of the guardians to restrict John's personal authority and take charge of foreign policy themselves. Thus in 1295 the community opened negotiations for a defence pact with King Philippe, which was ratified in the name of King John by an assembly of the barons and clergy at Dunfermline in February 1296. The young Edward Balliol - though not identified as being present - was mentioned as having a key role in securing this deal, since he was to be betrothed to Philippe's niece Jeanne. Soon the Scots were launching attacks on northern England, but it quickly became clear that they had overplayed their hand. Edward I marched north with an army in March and quickly seized Berwick-upon-Tweed (Scottish largest and most prosperous burgh). In April King John's father-in-law the earl of Surrey crushed the undisciplined Scottish army at the Battle of Dunbar, and by June the hapless King John had been forced to surrender himself to Edward I's mercy. Following a humiliating tour of the north-east of Scotland, culminating in his ceremonial divestment of the Scottish royal regalia, John was taken south for indefinite imprisonment. Edward Balliol too was taken into custody. In a few short months, the younger Balliol had gone from 'Edward, our son and future heir' (*Eduardum filium nostrum et heredem futurum*) as he had been styled at the assembly at Dunfermline in February to the captive son of the disgraced and defeated ruler of what the English were now calling 'the land of Scotland'.

John Balliol - a decision roundly accepted as the correct one by everyone save the Bruces and their closest allies - and he was duly inaugurated King of Scots at Scone on 30th November 1292.

At the time of his father's inauguration, the young Edward was still only a child and we can only speculate as to what he thought of these developments. Even his living arrangements at this point are a mystery to us, but he first appears in the written record - styled 'Edward, son of the king of Scotland' - in attendance at a feast thrown by Edward, Prince of Wales, to celebrate Pentecost at Mortlake on 29th April 1293. This has been used by Dr Amanda Beam to reasonably suggest that the young Edward may have been part of the English prince's household. Such an arrangement would have made sense as an effort to facilitate connections between the Balliols as ambitious northern English lords before 1292 and to consolidate relations between the English crown and the new King of Scots after 1292. Certainly there is no evidence of Edward Balliol being present in Scotland during his father's reign. He witnessed no charters and was given no role in government, although this does not necessarily prove anything given his youth. Moving in English royal circles raises one interesting possibility - that he may have encountered one or more of Annandale's grandsons during this period. Annandale's eldest grandson and namesake - the future King Robert I of Scotland - would have been about seven years Edward's senior and may have served in Edward I's household for a time, although this is far from certain. But one of Annandale's younger grandsons Edward Bruce most certainly was serving in Prince Edward's household by 1304, and moreover would have been about the same age as Edward Balliol. We can however again only speculate as to how either the young Balliol or the Bruces would have felt about being in such close proximity to their political rivals.

If Edward Balliol did spend his father's reign in the household of Prince Edward (or even in the household of his grandfather the earl of Surrey, who was himself Edward I's uncle), then he would no doubt have enjoyed a life of privilege, comfort and luxury. However, Balliol's father was not in for such a pleasant few years. From the very beginning, Edward I demonstrated his eagerness to exploit the role he had played in mediating the dispute over the Scottish succession to his own advantage, setting himself up as an arbiter to which John's subjects might appeal decisions made in the Scottish courts. In June 1294 Edward I even sought (unsuccessfully) to recruit Scottish magnates to serve in his war on



King Edward II of England, from BL Royal MS 20 A ii, *Chronicle of England*, f. 10r. Balliol may have been part of Edward's household before the outbreak of war in 1296, and certainly spent most of the early years of his captivity in the prince's custody. This does not however seem to have translated into personal closeness or smooth political cooperation. Image source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Edward_II_-_British_Library_Royal_20_A_ii_f10_\(detail\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Edward_II_-_British_Library_Royal_20_A_ii_f10_(detail).jpg)

An exiled prince or an English lord(?): In search of an inheritance, 1296-1315

While the events of 1296 had been dramatic and disastrous for his future prospects, Edward Balliol's day-to-day life probably did not change all that much. Though he was technically a prisoner, even an enemy of the state, he was not kept in especially straitened circumstances. He even continued to mostly reside in the household of Prince Edward, though he was occasionally kept at the Tower of London alongside his father and other Scottish captives. When his father was transferred into papal custody in 1299 and thus taken to the Continent, Edward Balliol was to remain in England as a hostage against the pope (or the King of France) using John as diplomatic leverage against the English crown. He may never have seen his father again after this. Now though Balliol was transferred into the custody of his grandfather John de Warenne, earl of Surrey. By 1303, he had been granted the right 'to have his sport' [i.e., to hunt] in the royal forest at Woodstock and was provided with robes 'according to the season' at King Edward's expense. When his grandfather died in 1304, Balliol remained in the custody of the seventh earl of Surrey, another John de Warenne, who was also Balliol's cousin (the sixth earl's only son - William - who had been killed at a tournament in 1293 mere months after the future seventh earl's birth). It is unclear whether Balliol attended either the marriage of Edward II to Isabella of France at Boulogne on 29th January 1308 or the royal couple's coronation at Westminster on 25th February that same year. However, he received a payment of 10 marks from the new king on the day of the wedding, which may suggest he had been allowed to travel with the royal party for this event. He was also in the presence of the English king at Windsor in April and July 1308. By now, Balliol would have been considered an adult (he would have turned twenty-five, the legal age of manhood, in 1306 or 1307) and thus might reasonably be looking for ways to express some independent political ambitions. However, despite his father's brief tenure as King of Scots (and a potent claim to at least be Lord of Galloway), it would appear that as he entered adulthood Balliol considered himself to be primarily a member of the English political community, much as his father had done back in the 1280s.

The situation in Scotland had changed significantly since King John had been forced to abdicate in 1296, and it was particularly volatile at the time Balliol was coming of age. Edward I's rather short-sighted decision to impose the most provocative form of English government on the Scottish commons in 1296 had sparked rebellion in 1297, and while the personal intervention of King Edward in 1298 prevented the complete collapse of English ambitions in Scotland an independent Scottish administration remained in operation within the kingdom for several years thereafter. By early 1302 Scottish confidence was such that rumours circulated that Balliol's father John might return from France with King Philippe's support and reclaim his kingdom (though what this would do for the status of John's son is unclear). Only a sustained military campaign by Edward I from 1303-4 finally forced the Scottish political community to come to terms with the English crown once again. However, a more even-handed and seemingly workable model for an English-led Scottish government - proposed by an English parliament in September 1305 - was given too little time to establish itself before, in early 1306, Robert Bruce, earl of Carrick and grandson of the main Balliol rival in 1290, killed Balliol's cousin John Comyn, lord of Badenoch, and had himself declared King of Scots. For Bruce, the 'defeat' of 1304 had represented the downfall only of the Balliol cause and thus presented an opportunity to press his own ambitions, backed it seems by the bulk of the Scottish clergy and - probably thanks to his clerical allies - a substantial, though not exhaustive, portion of the nobility as well. Bruce initially suffered a series of crushing reversals in the early months of his reign, but by the spring of 1307 he was beginning to gradually build momentum against both the English administration in Scotland and their 'native' allies. Given that most of the English crown's Scottish allies were at this time associated with the Balliols and Comyns (often kinsmen of Balliol himself), we might expect to see the now adult Edward Balliol showing an interest in developments north of the border, perhaps seeking to present himself as an acceptable English alternative to Bruce or at the very least trying to exploit the situation to regain his family's claim to non-royal lands in Scotland such as the lordship of Scotland.

Freedom! Horrible, horrible freedom!: Experiments in French *seigneurie*, 1315-1332

After some initial uncertainty about the risk of letting him travel (he was after all still technically a prisoner of the English crown), Balliol was given a safe conduct to travel to France in July 1315 to pay homage to King Louis X for his French inheritance. Balliol was back in England by September 1315 but does not seem to have remained there long before returning to his French estates, centred around the château of Héricourt in Vimeu, now ostensibly a free man it seems. However, true to his unflattering historical reputation, John's legacy to his son was not as appealing in practice as it must have seemed on paper. The Balliol estates in France were neither large nor especially profitable, and John had died burdened with enormous debts that now passed on to his luckless son. In 1316 or 1317 Balliol wrote to Edward II complaining of his inability to make a suitable living from his lands while encumbered by his father's debts, but this appeal fell on deaf ears. Edward II had his own problems to deal with, facing a Scottish royal administration emboldened by its remarkable victory at Bannockburn into carrying the war into northern England in an increasingly confident (and effective) fashion. This was exacerbated by Edward's domestic opponents, particularly the king's cousin Thomas, earl of Lancaster, who sought to exploit the king's humiliation in 1314 to push his own political agenda and assume greater control over the direction of the



A wildly anachronistic depiction of the killing of John Comyn, lord of Badenoch, in 1306 by nineteenth-century French artist Felix Philippoteaux. Comyn's death - at the hands of Robert Bruce, earl of Carrick, and his followers - was the catalyst for an open bid for power by the ambitious Carrick, which drove many traditional Balliol supporters to assist the English royal administration against Bruce. Balliol himself however seems to have been far too absorbed in English domestic politics to exploit the situation in Scotland to his advantage.

Image source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Death_of_Comyn.jpg

government. In these circumstances, the English crown - perhaps understandably - saw no interest in channelling further funds towards an individual who had provided no obvious return on the substantial investment they had already put into him. Beam has convincingly argued that Balliol's efforts to resolve his financial woes by appeals to the English crown likely won him no friends among the French royal administration either, which would have been inclined to view such apparent closeness to France's perennial enemy with suspicion.



The chronicler and crusader Jean de Joinville presenting his *Vie de Saint Louis* ('Life of Saint Louis') to King Louis X of France, from a manuscript of the *Vie* c. 1330-40. It was to King Louis that Balliol paid homage for his French inheritance in 1315, although he would be the subject of little affection from either Louis or his successors, thanks in part to Balliol's continuing association with the English crown. Image source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jean_de_Joinville_Louis_X.jpeg

mitigate things somewhat, the prospect that those in King Robert's service risked eternal damnation merely for supporting him was a most serious threat to the Bruce regime in the long run, and most of the Bruce Scots' diplomatic activities in the years after 1318 were centred around trying to reverse the interdict. The Bruce cause suffered another serious blow in October 1318 when King Robert's younger brother Edward was killed at the Battle of Dundalk in Ireland. Edward Bruce had been King Robert's heir on the strength of an entail drawn up in April 1315, and with his death that role would now be filled by the king's infant grandson Robert the Steward (born probably about 1316). For any Scots who already had misgivings about jeopardising their immortal souls in service to the excommunicate king, the additional prospect of a long minority - especially in a time of war - would have raised serious questions about the wisdom of continuing in support of the Bruce dynasty. A statute forbidding 'that anyone should be a conspirator or an inventor of tales or rumours by which a source of discord shall be able to arise between the lord king and his people', passed at a parliament held at Scone in December 1318, hints at the Scottish royal administration's nervousness that the events of 1318 had begun to



Berwick-upon-Tweed, Scotland's richest burgh in the thirteenth-century. The first Scottish town to be taken by the English when the war began, its recovery by Bruce in 1318 once again shifted the momentum of the conflict and presented Balliol with his best opportunity yet to press his rights in Scotland. Moreover, Balliol now seems to have been slightly more willing to seize such an opportunity.

Image source: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/berwick-upon-tweed-castle-and-ramparts/>

In 1318 Balliol's fortunes took another twist, though once again no thanks to anything he himself had done. This time, this unexpected stroke of luck would focus Balliol's attention matters concerning Scotland, perhaps for the first time in his life. In April 1318, Robert Bruce had been presented with an unanticipated but irresistible opportunity to seize Berwick-upon-Tweed. As noted above, this had been the first Scottish town taken by the English in 1296, and its recovery in 1318 would restore the Anglo-Scottish border as it had been before the war broke out. Naturally, Bruce leapt at the chance but in doing so he catastrophically alienated Pope John XXII, who for the last year or so had been trying to impose a truce on the two warring kingdoms. The capture of Berwick convinced Pope John that Bruce had not been honest in his earlier dealings with the pope's representatives and thus he not only excommunicated Bruce himself but placed the entire kingdom of Scotland under interdict (automatically excommunicating anyone who served or supported Bruce's cause). While the backing of the Scottish clergy and Bruce's continued military ascendancy helped to

undermine their authority, and even their legitimacy.

One group in particular who might be expected to be particularly sensitive to the changes that Bruce's excommunication and the death of his only adult heir had brought was the 'rump' of the old Balliol faction who still resided in Scotland. A number of erstwhile Balliol partisans had made their peace with the Bruce regime in the wake of King Robert's victory at Bannockburn, in order to avoid having their lands forfeited. Compromise had



The Declaration of Arbroath, ostensibly a letter from the barons of Scotland - likely heavily influenced by the Bruce royal administration - to Pope John XXII in 1320. The much-celebrated clause in which the barons apparently claimed a willingness to replace King Robert if he were 'to make us or our kingdom subject to the King of England or the English' is probably best understood as a retroactive justification of Bruce's usurpation of the Balliol claim in 1306.

Image source: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/Declaration>

allowed them - for the most part - to retain their estates, titles and rights, but the royal administration remained dominated by the king's men and those who had been slow in making their peace with Bruce found it difficult to advance their own interests in opposition to such individuals. With the death of Edward Bruce and the prospect of an infant king in the not too distant future, men who had only reconciled with King Robert out of necessity might reasonably consider reviving their former loyalty to the Balliols as a way of leveraging their way back into power. Moreover, they might find that elements of the wider community more receptive to the prospect of an adult monarch like Edward Balliol than a child-king whose minority government would no doubt be dominated by King Robert's close councillors like Thomas Randolph, earl of Moray, and 'the Good' Sir James Douglas (both of whom were named in an entail produced at the Scone parliament in 1318 as potential guardians if King Robert were succeeded by a minor). Indeed, even the English royal administration might, in these circumstances, be willing to tolerate the installation of a Balliol regime that was friendly towards - or reliant on - its southern neighbours rather than openly hostile as the Bruce administration was. Thus, a cabal of former Balliol and Comyn adherents appear to have begun plotting to supplant King Robert, possibly beginning as early as 1318. The precise details of this plot are difficult to reconstruct, not least because after it was unravelled by the Bruce regime in the summer of 1320 the royal administration appears to have gone out of its way to obscure the nature of the conspiracy (probably to conceal what a serious threat it had been). That the conspirators hoped to involve Balliol in their plot - presumably installing him as king after having disposed of King Robert - is suggested by the fact that Balliol personally travelled to England in July 1320, only a month before the scheme was uncovered and the conspirators brought to trial. Because we cannot be certain what precisely the plan was or how far along it had gotten before it was foiled, we cannot say for sure how close Balliol may have come to seizing the Scottish throne in 1320. Yet one key point that is worth stressing here is that among all of this plotting and politicking, there is no evidence for Balliol being particularly active in any of it. The timing of his visit to England suggests that he was responding to the development of the

plot against King Robert, not that he was guiding it or even actively promoting it. Once again, Balliol was reacting to events rather than directing them.

When Edward II was preparing for his fourth and final invasion of Scotland in 1322, he resided for a time at Barnard Castle, the caput (administrative centre) of what had once been the Balliols' main English lordship. This may have been intended as a way of subtly highlighting the English crown's preference for a Balliol kingship over a Bruce one, but there is no evidence that Balliol himself accompanied the English king into Scotland at this time. By October 1322 Balliol was back in France, and although he returned to England again in August 1324 he did not remain long. He had another safe conduct to return to England in July 1327, when an English army made a pretty sorry effort to chase a Scottish raiding party out of Weardale, but again there is no evidence that Balliol participated in this campaign or had travelled from France for this reason. Balliol's activities once again come across as fairly aimless during this period, and he seems to have confined himself to periodically seeking English royal assistance in alleviating his financial woes over his French estates. It may be during this period that Balliol married Margherita de Taranto, daughter of Philip, Prince of Taranto, who was himself the younger brother of King Robert I of Naples. Robert and Philip were both allies of the French crown who had attended the wedding of Edward II and Isabella of France in 1308, an event at which Beam has speculated that the possibility of a marriage between Balliol to Margherita may have first been mooted. Such a union would have



Barnard Castle, a Balliol stronghold in County Durham until John Balliol's forfeiture in 1296. It is uncertain whether Edward Balliol ever visited Barnard Castle, and certainly he does not seem to have ever been given possession of it by the English crown. However, the fact that Edward II briefly resided here ahead of his final campaign into southern Scotland in 1322 may indicate he was still toying with the possibility of supporting a Balliol revival as a way to challenge Bruce authority in Scotland. Image source: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/barnard-castle/>

given Balliol useful - if somewhat tangential - connections to the French crown, which would have facilitated his integration into the French nobility following his father's death in 1315. There is in fact no contemporary evidence that this marriage took place, and the first source to claim that it did is a genealogy published by William Bertham in 1795. Yet probably the strangest feature of Balliol's life is his apparent lack of a wife throughout his entire life. Though he of course spent much of the prime of his life as a hostage of the English crown, his claims to various English and French lordships, his connection with the English crown, and especially his status as a potential candidate for the Scottish kingship must surely have presented opportunities for a politically motivated in at least one of these kingdoms. That he would remain a bachelor throughout the ups-and-downs of his long career seems far less likely than that he was married but that this ultimately had such a minor impact on his fortunes that it passed without comment among the surviving contemporary commentators. A union with Margherita, possibly proposed as early as 1308 but perhaps not carried out until after his entry into his French inheritance around 1315, is not that unreasonable in this context.

If Balliol did marry Margherita however, then it ended either in divorce or annulment before 1348, when she (re-)married Francis of Baux, Duke of Andria. The reasons for this may be related to the events of 1330, which brought Balliol's tenure as a French lord to a dramatic end. In late 1330, Balliol was accused of the murder of a squire named Jean de Candas, whose brother Ferrand pursued Balliol with 'challenges of battle'. The precise nature of the incident - including Balliol's guilt - are unclear, but King Philippe VI imprisoned Balliol in December and between then and August 1332 Balliol was forfeited of all of his estates and property in France. This was a potentially disastrous turn of events for Balliol. Now pushing fifty, he found himself incarcerated once again, deprived of what had been his primary means of financial support for the previous fifteen years, and - if the charges could be proved - at risk of losing his life as well. A divorce from Margherita may also have been arranged at this time, as she and her brothers sought to extricate themselves from the latest fine mess into which Balliol had been plunged. As it happened, his opportunity to mitigate this most recent disaster required Balliol to turn his attention back towards developments in Scotland. He was released from his French prison into the custody of one Sir Henry Beaumont, a distant relative of Edward II's mother Eleanor of Castile and an experienced English courtier. Beaumont was also married to Alice Comyn, whose uncle John Comyn, earl of Buchan, had been driven out of Scotland by Bruce in 1308. Through Alice, Beaumont laid claim to the earldom of Buchan but could not hope to enjoy the material benefits of this claim so long as the Bruce dynasty remained in power in Scotland. As such, Beaumont was one of the foremost figures in 'the Disinherited', a vocal faction within the English political community who had lost lands, titles and/or rights in Scotland after 1314 who relied on the destruction of the Bruce Scots for the revival of their own fortunes north of the border. The Disinherited had apparently already made overtures towards Balliol - or he to them - before the collapse of the latter's fortunes in France, with Balliol receiving safe conducts to travel to England in July and October 1330. The second of these safe conducts was issued only three days before a bloodless palace coup ended the dominance of Isabella of France over the English royal administration (an arrangement made in the wake of her husband's deposition in 1327) and placed her son King Edward III in full control of the governance of the realm. Like the Disinherited, Edward III was deeply dissatisfied with the outcome of the First War of Scottish Independence - which had ended with a formal recognition of Bruce's rights as King of Scots in May 1328 - and would soon prove himself eager to use the grievances of the Disinherited to reignite the conflict. Balliol, reduced once again to a landless dependent of the English crown, had little choice but to play along.



Isabella of France, Queen of England, arriving at Paris in 1326 to be met by a party (including a very sweet-looking dog with a cape) representing her brother King Charles IV of France, from a fifteenth-century manuscript of Jean Froissart's *Croniques*. Isabella's tenure in control of the English government from 1327-30 was a low point for Balliol's fortunes, given her generally peaceful approach to Anglo-Scottish relations. However, when her bellicose son Edward III took personal charge of the administration of the realm, Balliol's claim to the Scottish throne provided a useful excuse for him to contemplate renewed war.

Image source:
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Isabella_of_France_welcomed_to_Paris.jpg

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'EDWARDVS DEI GRACIA REX SCOTORVM': King of Scots, 1332-1356

Balliol was back in England again by October 1331, which may explain why David II - king since his father's death in June 1329 - was finally formally crowned at Scone on 24th November! Later chronicle tradition attribute the blame for Balliol's apparent confidence in his ability to reclaim his right to the kingship on the encouragement of several different individuals. The late fourteenth-century *Chronicle of Melsa* makes the somewhat outrageous claim that Balliol was secretly invited to invade Scotland by Donald, earl of Mar. Mar was the late King Robert's nephew, but he had remained in England long after the Battle of Bannockburn and returned to his uncle's allegiance only after the deposition of Edward II in 1327. That might look favourably on a revival of the Balliol claim, even one backed by the English crown, is not too difficult to believe, but the notion that he collaborated with Balliol in 1332 seems doubtful when we consider that the earl would be killed fighting against Balliol soon after he made his move. Early fifteenth-century Scottish chroniclers Andrew of Wyntoun and Walter Bower on the other hand lay the blame at the feet of one Twynam Laurison, 'a yhowman' according to Wyntoun (A. Wyntoun, *Orygynale Cronykil of Scotland*, Bk. 8, ll. 3290) and 'a certain lusty fellow' as Bower puts it. Laurison had apparently been accused of adultery - he 'thrust himself excessively into the embraces of various women, not only single women, but also married ones' as Bower scandalously relates - and had, due to his refusal to either relent or repent, been excommunicated by one Master William Eckford. In response, Laurison seized Eckford at Ayr and blackmailed £200 out of the terrified cleric before being hounded out of Scotland by 'the Good' Sir James Douglas. Wyntoun and Bower both assert that Laurison fled directly to Balliol and encouraged him to make

war in defence of his perceived rights. In all probability however, it was Beaumont who played the leading role in recruiting Balliol to assist the Disinherited cause. It was certainly Beaumont who rescued Balliol from French custody, and according to both the *Chronicle of Melis* and the late fifteenth-century *Brut* it was Beaumont who accompanied Balliol in private negotiations with Edward III in late 1331 and early 1332.



The regnal seal of Edward Balliol, likely created around the time of his coronation in 1332. It depicts Balliol enthroned and flanked by the royal arms of Scotland to his right and the Balliol arms to his left. The legend reads 'EDWARDVS DEI GRACIA REX SCOTORVM' ('Edward, by the grace of God King of Scots'). The reverse depicts Balliol armed as a knight on horseback and features the same legend. This is not dissimilar to the seals used by the Bruce kings and suggests that Balliol was not seeking to express his royal authority in a markedly different manner than his rivals, a point largely confirmed by his surviving acts as king.

Image source: <http://nms.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-180-001-733-C&scache=1urxoj63n6&searchdb=scran>.

As noted above, Edward III was eager to repay the Bruce Scots for what he saw as the humiliation of the Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton in 1328. Yet he also appears to have been unwilling to commit himself to resuming open warfare against his northern enemies without clear assurances that the Bruce Scots - who after all had enjoyed the ascendancy in warfare with England since at least 1314 - were now genuinely susceptible to assault. He thus declined to openly support Balliol and the Disinherited in their efforts to reclaim their rights in Scotland and even forbade them from invading through England, apparently in an effort to give himself a degree of deniability should it all go wrong. Nevertheless, Balliol and his Disinherited supporters set off by sea from Kingston-upon-Hull with a force of about 2,000-3,000 troops on 31st July 1332, mounting what was in effect a private invasion of Scotland. Balliol et al. landed at Kinghorn in Fife on 6th August and struck out for Scone, the traditional site for the inauguration - and since David II, the coronation - of Scottish kings. On 10th August, they encountered a larger Scottish host waiting for them on Dupplin Moor above the River Earn, but the following day the Disinherited army swept the Bruce Scots from the field. A major contributing factor for this defeat was the apparently bitter disharmony among the Bruce Scots, particularly between Mar (now serving as guardian of the realm for the underage David II) and the late King Robert's illegitimate son Robert Bruce, lord of Liddesdale. With this victory, the way was now open for the Disinherited to advance unchallenged to Scone, ready for the coronation. In the short period between Dupplin Moor and his coronation, a number of Scottish lords seized upon this opportunity to hastily make their peace with the resurgent Balliol. These included Patrick Dunbar, earl of March, a leading southern magnate who had been fairly late to espouse the Bruce cause and had thus found it difficult to secure particularly generous patronage from King Robert, Duncan, earl of Fife, another magnate who had only reconciled himself to Bruce after Bannockburn, and - perhaps most surprisingly - William Sinclair, Bishop of Dunkeld (Bruce's 'fighting bishop'). Fife and Bishop Sinclair in particular would play a key role in legitimising the coronation ceremony that took place on 24th September. It is a striking illustration of the confidence of Balliol and his Disinherited allies that

the contemporary Lanercost chronicler makes the bold claim concerning the provision of food at the coronation festivities:

'...whereas there were in that place an immense multitude of men and but slight means of feeding them, God nevertheless looked down and multiplied the victuals there as he did of old in the desert, so that there was ample provision for all men.'



The modern harbour at Kinghorn in Fife. It was close to this spot that Balliol and the Disinherited landed in 1332 ahead of the campaign that placed him on the throne. Though much of his success would be reversed before the end of the year, the achievements of Balliol and the Disinherited convinced Edward III that the resumption of open warfare would best serve his personal interests.

Image source: <https://commons.m.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bb-kinghorn.jpg#mw-jump-to-license>

Balliol would require a miracle of a different sort if he was to hold onto his newfound status as king. The 'defections' of Fife and March had been a valuable if perhaps unanticipated bonus for his cause, in that they offered Balliol and the Disinherited effective use of a wide swathe of territory across the south-east of Scotland and - crucially - gave them a route by land to communicate with - and, if the worst came to the worst, flee to - England. Balliol thus moved from Fife to Roxburgh, formerly one of the main centres of royal power in Scotland and now an easily-defended castle close to the border. Here he set up his headquarters, from which he began his earliest efforts to administer the realm as king. His inner circle remained dominated by the leading figures among the Disinherited, most notably Beaumont - now styling himself 'earl of Buchan'. David Strathbogie, earl of Atholl, had Bruce connections through his grandfather John and Balliol connections through his mother Joan and thus the family had sought to tow a somewhat awkward and unpredictable line between the two factions during the recent conflicts. The earl's father and namesake had abandoned the Scots on the evening of the first day of fighting at Bannockburn in 1314, leaving the younger David reliant on the English crown ever since. Gilbert Umfraville, earl of Angus, was another distant Balliol kinsman and he and his father had declined to make their peace with the Bruces even after Bannockburn, preferring instead to withdraw to their barony of Prudhoe in Northumberland. Also with Balliol at Roxburgh were English knights

Richard Talbot and Henry Ferrers (both hoping to regain lands they had lost in the Bruce resettlement after 1314) and minor Scottish nobleman Alexander Mowbray. Perhaps most interestingly of all, Sir Eustace Maxwell of Caerlaverock was present with Balliol. Maxwell had been one of those implicated in the conspiracy against King Robert in 1320 - though he had been exonerated of the charges - and his presence was reflective of a wider residual sense of



The ruins of Roxburgh Castle, on an island in the River Teviot. It was here in late 1332 that Balliol held court and apparently even summoned his first parliament as king. His decision to acknowledge Edward III as his feudal superior, while undoubtedly a necessary concession if he was to secure direct military support from the English king and consolidate his gains, would cause Balliol more problems than it would solve in the long run.

Image source: http://www.castlesfortsbattles.co.uk/lothian_borders/roxburgh_castle.html

loyalty felt by the major kindreds of the south-west. As well as the Maxwells, the leading kindreds of Galloway - the MacDowells, the Maclellans and the McCullochs - all came out in support of Edward Balliol in 1332. March was apparently not in attendance, though Fife was.

As Balliol made his earliest attempts to administer the realm, the Bruce Scots were not inactive. With the young David II safely ensconced at Dumbarton Castle on the Firth of Clyde, Sir Andrew Murray of Bothwell - the king's uncle by marriage - was appointed guardian of the realm, with the responsibility to reassert Bruce dominance in those regions that had now shifted their allegiance to Balliol. Murray seems to have attacked Balliol's party while they were at Roxburgh, although this resulted in Murray being captured. Nonetheless, the Bruce Scots succeeded in recovering Perth thanks to the efforts of Sir Simon Fraser - whose grandfather had, like Murray's father, been a prominent 'patriotic' war leader during the First War of Scottish Independence. Murray's capture was off-set somewhat by the capture of Duncan, earl of Fife, robbing Balliol of one of his most high-ranking - and therefore valuable - supporters. According to the *Chronicle of Melsa* and Thomas Walsingham's *Chronicon Angliæ*, a truce was arranged between the two sides, designed to last until February 1333, when a parliament would meet to discuss whether David or Balliol should be recognised as king by the whole community. It may have been in light of this minor Bruce resurgence that this arrangement was made, but Balliol chose to use this time in about the most provocative way imaginable. On 23rd November, still at Roxburgh, Balliol issued a remarkably far-reaching document concerning the future of the kingdom and its status relative to England. Recalling the role that Edward I had played in settling the succession crisis in the 1290s and stating that Balliol's father John had paid homage to him for it, Balliol formally acknowledged Edward III as his feudal superior. In return for Edward's support in maintaining his rights in Scotland, Balliol obliged himself to provide the English king with £2,000 worth of land in southern Scotland - comprising the shires of Edinburgh, Berwick, Roxburgh, Selkirk, Dumfries and Wigtown - as well as to serve him in war with 200 men-at-arms when asked. Balliol also offered to marry Edward's sister Joan, who had already been married to David II to guarantee the terms of the Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton in 1328, and promised to compensate David II, apparently both for the loss of both his wife and his kingdom. This offer of marriage - when Joan was eleven and Balliol was in his early fifties - may indicate that his seizure of the crown had brought the need for an heir back into focus for him. The fact that the document claimed to have been made 'with the assent of the prelates, earls, barons, knights and all others there' implies that Balliol was holding a parliament at Roxburgh.



Prudhoe Castle in Northumberland, primary residence of the Umfraville earls of Angus during their exile from Scotland following the rise of the Bruce dynasty. Balliol's lack of a similar set of estates and titles upon which to base a stable political affinity meant that, although he outranked the Umfravilles as King of Scots, he was less freely able to act on his ambition to recover his fortune in Scotland than they were.

Image source: http://www.castlesfortsbattles.co.uk/north_east/prudhoe_castle.html

Balliol's apparent capitulation to the English crown was, in some senses, inevitable. He had, after all, been in talks with Edward III even before setting off for Scotland in July, and when news of the Disinherited's victory at Dupplin Moor reached the English king he had moved the royal administration north to York, anticipating an imminent opportunity to become actively involved in Scottish affairs. Sooner or later, Balliol and the Disinherited would have to come to terms with the bellicose English monarch, and the loss of Perth and the capture of Fife had perhaps frightened them into seeking formal assurance of English support as quickly as possible. However, the proposal agreed to by the assembly at Roxburgh was nothing short of outrageous. The cessation of a substantial portion of southern Scotland, the acknowledgement of English overlordship, and the requirement for military service (likely overseas) were all bound to be rejected by the majority of Scots, with the last two being major causes for the outbreak of war as far back as 1296.



The Clifford coat of arms from the late fourteenth-century *Armorial de Gelre*. Robert, 1st Lord Clifford, had risen to prominence in the service of Edward I during the Anglo-Scottish conflicts of the 1290s and 1300s, before being killed at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Clifford clearly recognised the potential for personal aggrandisement that the Scottish wars offered, and his son likely hoped to revive the family's fortunes north of the border by assisting Balliol in late 1332 and early 1333.

Image source: <https://uurl.kbr.be/1733715>

Moreover, by acting 'with the assent' of the community before a decision had been reached at the proposed February

parliament, Balliol had given the Bruce Scots an excuse to consider the recent truce to be void. Apparently oblivious to this, Balliol dismissed his troops and withdrew to Annan, apparently planning to spend the winter near to his grandmother's ancestral lands in Galloway. However, on 16th December he and his small company of men were ambushed by John Randolph, earl of Moray, and Archibald Douglas (younger half-brother of 'the Good' Sir James). A Henry Balliol was killed in the confused fighting at Annan, and he has traditionally been identified (including elsewhere on this blog) as Balliol's younger brother. However, Beam has suggested - on the basis that Henry does not appear with Balliol at any other time - that this Henry was one of the Balliols of Cavers and thus a more distant relative. Nevertheless, caught utterly unawares, Balliol was apparently lucky to escape and was forced to flee half-dressed back across the border 'On a barme hors wyth leggys bare' as Wyntoun memorably puts it (Bk. 8, ll. 3727).

Driven out of his kingdom as swiftly and shockingly as he had arrived, Balliol was once more forced to rely on the goodwill of English lords to survive. He showed his appreciation for the generosity of Sir Robert Clifford in this regard by confirming him as lord of Douglas, a grant that had originally been made to Clifford's father and namesake for his service in Edward I's Scottish wars. This confirmation helps to illustrate a fundamental problem facing Balliol in his efforts to build an affinity capable of securing lasting control of Scotland for him - rarely could he make a gift of land or title that did not already belong to somebody else. The lordship of Douglas had been forfeited from William Douglas 'the Hardy' in or about 1297 and given to the elder Clifford, an ambitious northern English lord who recognised the situation in Scotland as an opportunity for social and financial advancement. This had ultimately driven William's son and heir 'the Good' Sir James into the arms of King Robert, who had made James one of the main beneficiaries of the post-1314 resettlement of the kingdom. Douglas's interests were now vested in his own son - another William, a teenager in 1332 - and his half-brother Archibald, one of the leaders at Annan. Balliol could not hope to win over the likes of William and Archibald without guaranteeing their rights, but could not do so without alienating 'Disinherited' supporters. This was true both among the English Disinherited lords like Clifford and the Scottish Disinherited lords like Strathbogie. The redistribution of lands after 1314 had tied the interests of a number of important Scottish kindreds - the Douglases, the Stewarts, the Keiths, the Hays, the Campbells and so on - so tightly that their only hope of maintaining their position in Scotland was fierce resistance to a Balliol resurgence in any and all circumstances.

Nevertheless, Balliol's limited success in 1332 had demonstrated to Edward III that the Bruce regime was more vulnerable than it had been since 1314, and thus he felt encouraged to openly act against it. Balliol's submission to the English king in November 1332 only added further justification for his aggression. Although an English parliament held at York in January 1333 remained somewhat cautious about how to proceed, in May Edward III joined Balliol in laying siege to Berwick, initiating a fresh round of Anglo-Scottish conflict in precisely the same manner as his grandfather had done in 1296. Despite his relative youth - he was a good thirty years younger than Balliol - he showed remarkable resolve and considerable military cunning in resisting Scottish attempts to lift the siege by raiding into Northumberland. His intransigence ultimately forced Archibald Douglas, now guardian of the realm, to approach Berwick and offer battle, much as King Robert had done to Edward III's father at Bannockburn in 1314. And, just as in 1314, the ensuing battle was an absolute catastrophe for the attacking army, so catastrophic in fact that it earned Archibald



The site of Dumbarton Castle on the Firth of Clyde. The Bruce Scots' resolute hold on this stronghold even after the defeats at Dupplin Moor in 1332 and Halidon Hill in 1333 proved to be of considerable strategic significance, not least as it provided them with a staging point from which to send their king David II to the relative safety of France in May 1334.

Image source: <https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-8QwU24CLvRM/YUuad26dTLI/AAAAAAAAAAero/jg1L1TW-TxEwoTB-OGucS2LvkuCTvRk4LgCLcBGAsYHQ/s946/Dumbarton-Castle.jpg>

the unflattering by-name 'the Tyneman' ('the Loser'). The Scots advanced slowly up Halidon Hill towards the English army, their formations being disrupted by English archery and making them easy prey to the disciplined English infantry once close quarters fighting began. Archibald and his nephew William were both killed, as were two of King David's cousins - Alexander Bruce, earl of Carrick, and John Campbell, earl of Atholl - King David's brother-in-law Hugh, earl of Ross, Malcolm, earl of Lennox, Kenneth, earl of Sutherland, and thousands more - noble and common alike. The situation was so grim for the Bruce Scots as a result of this bloody rout that in May 1334 the young King David was shipped off to France alongside a number of other underage Scottish nobles to take refuge with King Philippe VI.

Victory at Halidon Hill, though not strictly speaking the result of his own efforts, delivered de facto kingship of Scotland back into Balliol's hands. In October 1333 he held a parliament at Perth - the most northerly of his reign - and in February 1334 he held another, even better-attended parliament at Edinburgh. At the latter assembly, Beaumont was now styling himself earl of Buchan and Moray and Lord Constable of Scotland. Strathbogie meanwhile was holding Stewart lordships in Refrewshire, Clydesdale and Roxburghshire and possibly also the office of Steward (though this

would be granted to Richard, earl of Arundel, by November 1336). The distribution of the Randolph earldom of Moray and Stewart lordships to Beaumont and Strathbogie illustrates how Balliol was forced to reward his Disinherited adherents with property taken from Bruce loyalists, a policy that in the long-run only served to ensure continued resistance to his authority from those kindreds threatened by it. Further Randolph estates - the lordships of Annandale and Moffatdale - were granted to Sir Henry Percy of Alnwick at the same parliament. Yet although these grants promised more trouble down the line, it is noteworthy that a number of Bruce partisans - most notably Malcolm Fleming, Alexander Seton, Robert Keith, and Simon Fraser - were in attendance at the

Edinburgh parliament. Clearly the crushing defeat at Halidon Hill and the need of these men to protect their estates in the south of Scotland (now physically occupied by the English) necessitated a degree of feigned reconciliation with the ascendant Balliol regime. That the submissions of at least two of these men was feigned is demonstrated by the fact that a mere three months after the parliament Fleming would be instrumental in facilitating David II's flight to France, while Keith would accompany the royal party to Philippe's court! This was the height of Balliol's power in Scotland, yet it is apparent that even now his success was superficial at best, a fact that would make it incredibly difficult to consolidate his achievements.

Since Balliol owed the swift revival of his fortunes in Scotland to Edward III's direct intervention, it is no surprise that on 12th February Balliol reiterated his submission to the English king and repeated his promises with regard to the surrender of £2,000 worth of land in southern Scotland - as well as extending another offer of marriage to Joan. Balliol personally paid homage to Edward III at Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 19th June 1334 and formally ceded control of the various shires he had promised to his patron. At the time, this must have seemed like the safest way of securing further English support for his rights as king,



The Beaumont arms, as depicted in the late fourteenth-century *Armorial de Gelre*. Henry Beaumont's ambition to secure possession of the earldom of Buchan - held in right of his wife Alice Comyn - was a far more significant motivating factor behind the Disinherited invasion of Scotland in 1332 than Balliol's eagerness to assume the kingship of Scotland. Beaumont's extensive military experience also had a greater impact on the Balliol faction's successes during the Second War of Scottish Independence, and he may have ultimately been viewed by Edward III as more useful to Edward III than Balliol.

Image source:
<https://uurl.kbr.be/1733715>

but he may have overestimated the English king's hopes for him. Already, Edward III may have been considering a more restrained outcome from his dealings with Scotland, and it seems unlikely that he put much faith in Balliol personally to radically



Edward III at the gates of Berwick-upon-Tweed in 1333, as depicted in a fifteenth-century manuscript of Froissart's *Croniques*. The English king's siege of Berwick marks the effective beginning of the Second War of Scottish Independence, and his subsequent victory at the Battle of Halidon Hill seemed to promise the dramatic revival of Balliol fortunes. However, it would in fact prove to be a false dawn, with the English king at first being eager merely to consolidate his own interests in Scotland then later becoming distracted by events on the Continent.

Image source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Edouard_III_devant_Berwick.jpg



King David II of Scotland and his queen Joan being received by King Philippe VI of France. Philippe's provision of a safe haven for the Bruce king after 1334 was a further major blow to Balliol's ability to make a decisive breakthrough in Scotland, placing David well beyond Balliol's reach while simultaneously freeing the senior figures among the Bruce Scots to concentrate on dismantling English/Balliol authority within the kingdom. Image source:
https://commons.m.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Scotland_Dumbarton_Castle_bordercropped.jpg#mw-jump-to-license

alter the situation in Scotland. Balliol was, after all, now in his fifties, still childless and apparently unmarried, and thus hardly represented a great investment in the long-run. From the outset, Edward III may have seen his ultimate goal as consolidating his hold on the areas of southern Scotland Balliol had ceded to him - which would serve as a useful 'buffer zone' against future Scottish raiding into northern England - rather than viewing the primary goal as being the winning of an entire kingdom for Balliol. Beam for example has argued that the English king probably saw Balliol merely as the figurehead for a sustained military occupation that in practical terms would be overseen by the likes of Beaumont and Strathbogie. Both of these men certainly received considerable direct patronage from the English crown. In July 1334 for instance, Balliol was given £333 6s. and 8d. while Beaumont was granted £266 13s. 4d. and Starthbogie £100.

This was not a particularly firm basis from which Balliol could build a lasting hold over the kingdom. Although Halidon Hill had powerfully demonstrated the potential effectiveness of direct English military support, the extent of the English crown's involvement in 1334 - cash payments notwithstanding - was the dispatch of a small force from Newcastle to overwinter at Renfrew, a manoeuvre that posed a personal threat to Robert the Steward (now in his late teens and a key leader of resistance to Balliol's interests) but did little to dampen the spirits of the Bruce Scots as a whole. Furthermore, cracks were beginning to show among the leadership of the Disinherited as Balliol, Beaumont and Strathbogie. The latter clashed with Beaumont over the inheritance of Alexander Mowbray in August 1334 and seems to have resented Balliol's plans for the earldom of Mar (now in the hands of a minor, Thomas, since Dupplin Moor in 1332). His frustrations may have encouraged Strathbogie to defect to the Bruce Scots - exploiting his familial connections with both factions once again - after being captured by Randolph near Lochaber in September 1334. This fracturing among the Disinherited illustrates that Balliol could not wholeheartedly rely on the loyalty of even his core supporters, but it may also have convinced Edward III of the need for another personal appearance in Scotland in the following year. Thus, in the summer of 1335, Balliol and his patron met at Newcastle once again. From here, Edward III marched west to Carlisle, then advanced through Galloway and Clydesdale to Glasgow. Balliol meanwhile moved up the east coast as far as Berwick, before cutting cross-country to join the English king at Glasgow, from which they both moved on to Perth. As well as establishing new garrisons at Stirling and Perth, this show of strength seems to have won Strathbogie back to the Balliol cause, and this time the maverick earl brought with him none other than Robert the Steward. On paper, this was a significant 'get' from Balliol's perspective. The Steward was a grandson of King Robert I and had until this point been a leading figure in the armed opposition to Balliol's ambitions. Yet this defection had more to do with the usefulness of Strathbogie in securing the Steward's long-standing ambition to be recognised as heir to the earldom of Fife rather than being an acknowledgement of Balliol's ascendancy in the struggle for the Scottish crown. Even this would not last long.

In November 1335, apparently during a period truce, Strathbogie laid siege to Kildrummy Castle, caput of the earldom of Mar, which was ably defended by Christian Bruce, aunt of King David and wife of Murray of Bothwell (now serving as guardian). Murray rushed north with an army hoping to lift the siege and at Culblean in Aberdeenshire on St Andrews Day (30th November) Strathbogie's force was overwhelmed and the earl himself killed. Strathbogie's death robbed Balliol not only of a valuable agent in the north but also - given his familial links to the Comyns of Badenoch - a potential heir. According to the contemporary Lanercost chronicler, Murray had refused to be party to the truce, but according to the late fourteenth-century Scottish chronicler John of Fordun sought permission from William Montagu, earl of Salisbury and Edward III's chief lieutenant in Scotland, to render aid to the beleaguered garrison at Kildrummy. If this is true then it suggests that Murray and his men did feel bound by the truce, and moreover that the English were willing to condone action against one of Balliol's chief allies after he had breached it. This demonstrates a shocking disregard for Balliol's interests on the part of the main English war leaders in Scotland, but it also helps us to understand how Balliol's grip on the situation in Scotland - and his hopes of maintaining lasting authority there - was growing increasingly tenuous. When an eleven-month papal truce came into effect in January 1336, Balliol once again proposed that he marry Joan, a suggestion that seems all the more desperate when we remember that by now Joan was living under the protection of her kinsman King Phillip VI of France and was thus outwith the effective reach of either the pope or Edward III. On 12th September, Balliol made an indenture with John Macdonald of Islay at Perth, in which he confirmed Macdonald in his vast estates across the Hebrides and the western Highlands as well as granting Macdonald wardship of Strathbogie's son and heir. This grant - which may have encouraged Macdonald to adopt the title *dominus insularum*, or 'Lord of the Isles', for the first time in a letter to Edward III around the same time - was bold but ultimately serves as another sign of the inherent weakness of Balliol's position. The Macdonalds had emerged as the dominant forces in the politics of western Scotland as a result of their early adherence to King Robert I after 1306, and their rise had



The arms of the earl of Atholl, as depicted in the late fourteenth-century *Armorial de Gelre*. David Strathbogie was, like his father, one of the great political mavericks of the early fourteenth-century. He provided Balliol with valuable political connections across the north of Scotland and may also have been considered as Balliol's potential heir. However, his unreliability added yet another major weakness in Balliol's wider political networks.

Image source: <https://uurl.kbr.be/1733715>



Kildrummy Castle, *caput* of the earldom of Mar in north-east Scotland. Strathbogie's decision to besiege Kildrummy in late 1335 was thwarted by a formidable defence led by Christian Bruce and ultimately led him to disaster at the Battle of Culblean in November. Image source: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/kildrummy-castle/overview/>



The memorial stone at the likely site of the Battle of Culblean. Once again, although he was not present at the battle itself Culblean was an unmitigated disaster for Balliol, robbing him both of one of his most significant - if somewhat unreliable - supporters and also a potential heir.

Image source:

https://commons.m.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Culblean_battle_memorial_stone.jpg
#mw-jump-to-license

been at the expense of the Macdougalls, kinsmen of the Comyns and therefore staunch supporters of the Balliol claim. However, with no adult Macdougalls to call on in the 1330s, Balliol was forced to try to convert a kindred who had previously been among the strongest Bruce adherents in the west.

As with most of Balliol's policies as King of Scots, this would enjoy initial, superficial success, but would not last long. After 1336, Edward III's attention would be primarily focused on the Continent, where tensions between the English and French crowns over the duchy of Aquitaine (a recurrent theme of the foreign policy of both kingdoms for the past two centuries) were rapidly dragging both realms into the long and destructive conflict known as the Hundred Years' War. We have already seen the limitations of Balliol's ability to extend his authority across Scotland even with direct English intervention, and with English military resources increasingly drawn away from Scotland Balliol and his allies found themselves unable to counteract the creeping territorial successes of the Scots. Fife was almost completely overrun in 1337, Perth was recovered in 1338, and in April 1341 the enterprising if vicious Sir William Douglas of Lothian took Edinburgh Castle by ruse. Most seriously of all for Balliol, by the summer of 1341 the Bruce Scots judged that it was safe enough to risk the physical return of King David to his kingdom, and he duly landed - albeit in rather muted fashion - at Inverbervie on or around 2nd June. Stirling fell to the Bruce Scots in April 1342, within a year of David's arrival, but the presence of his young rival was a far more serious threat to Balliol's ambitions than this. David II now presented the same sort of challenge to Balliol than Balliol himself had represented for David's father way back in 1318. Balliol was now the ageing king with no son (indeed, no obvious heir of any kind in Balliol's case) offer his potential subjects future stability, while David was the young, virile, energetic monarch who must have seemed a far more promising prospect to the bulk of the community of the realm. In August 1343, a three-year truce was agreed at Lochmaben. By now, the momentum of the war had shifted strongly in favour of the Bruce Scots, and Balliol might well have despaired of ever enjoying his full rights as King of Scots, which for one brief period had seemed to be within his grasp.

When the truce came to an end in 1346, David II launched a full-scale invasion of northern England, motivated it seems by a mixture of loyalty to his erstwhile host King Philippe VI of France and even more so by a desire to firmly illustrate his authority over those Scottish noblemen who had taken charge of the war

effort during his absence in France. This met with disaster at the Battle of Neville's Cross on 17th October, at which David himself was wounded and taken prisoner. Balliol, though now in his mid-sixties, was reputedly present at the battle, but if he hoped that this was going to be his change to revive his fortunes in Scotland yet again then he was to be sadly mistaken. Though he was again began issuing charters as King of Scots, he made it no further north than Caerlaverock Castle before withdrawing to Hestan Island, a property he had acquired from the monks at Dundrennan Abbey c. 1335. Ironically, David's capture at Neville's Cross served only to weaken Balliol's position with the English crown even further. With the Bruce king as his captive, Edward III increasingly sought to use David, not Balliol, to leverage concessions from the Scottish political community. In particular, the possibility that the childless King David might recognise a younger son - either Lionel of Antwerp or John of Gaunt - as his heir became the English crown's preferred resolution to the conflict with Scotland. This of course meant the outright denial of Balliol's claim, but it had some appeal to David, who fully expected to produce legitimate heirs of his own at some point (who would then supersede any English appointee) and in the meantime liked the sound of cutting his nephew Robert the Steward out of the succession. The succession of an English royal as heir to the Bruce dynasty likely also appealed to the remaining Disinherited, further sapping Balliol's support. Balliol fiercely opposed peace negotiations between England and Scotland on the basis of this proposal, and was given relief from a somewhat unexpected source in 1352 when a Scottish parliament firmly rejected the appointment of an English heir. Nonetheless, by the 1350s it must have been growing increasingly clear even to Balliol that his chances of reviving his claims in Scotland were by now vanishingly small.

Throughout this period, the ageing Balliol was usually represented by his friend and ally (his valet in 1348, but a knight from 1352) William de Aldeburgh, whom he repaid with grants of land in Galloway (though it is uncertain whether Aldeburgh ever enjoyed the material benefits of these grants). However, Balliol would make one more appearance in person in an effort to make an impact on events in Scotland. In January 1356, when Edward III was at Roxburgh preparing for the destructive raid that would become known as 'the Burnt Candlemas', Balliol came once more into the king's presence. According to Fordun's source, Balliol was:

'...roaring like a lion...and, scarce containing himself for wrath, he broke forth into these words, more bitter than death itself, and said: "king, and best of princes, who art, I know, the mightiest of all mortals in the world in these days - I wholly, simply, and



The Battle of Neville's Cross in 1346, depicted in a fifteenth-century manuscript of Froissart's *Croniques*. While the capture of David II - shown here in the bottom left corner of the image - might seem at first like a positive outcome for Balliol, ironically it led Edward III to view David, not Balliol, as offering his best opportunity to pursue his personal ambitions in Scotland.

Image source:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BNMsFr2643FroissartFol97vBatNevillecross.jpg>

absolutely yield unto thee my cause, and all right I have, or may have, to the throne of Scotland, so that thou avenge me of mine enemies, the Scottish nation, a race most false, who have always cast me aside, that I should not reign over them."

Fordun is quick to add that in doing so Balliol 'gave away nothing from himself, inasmuch as he had no right from the very first'. Possibly following the same source, Wyntoun writes:

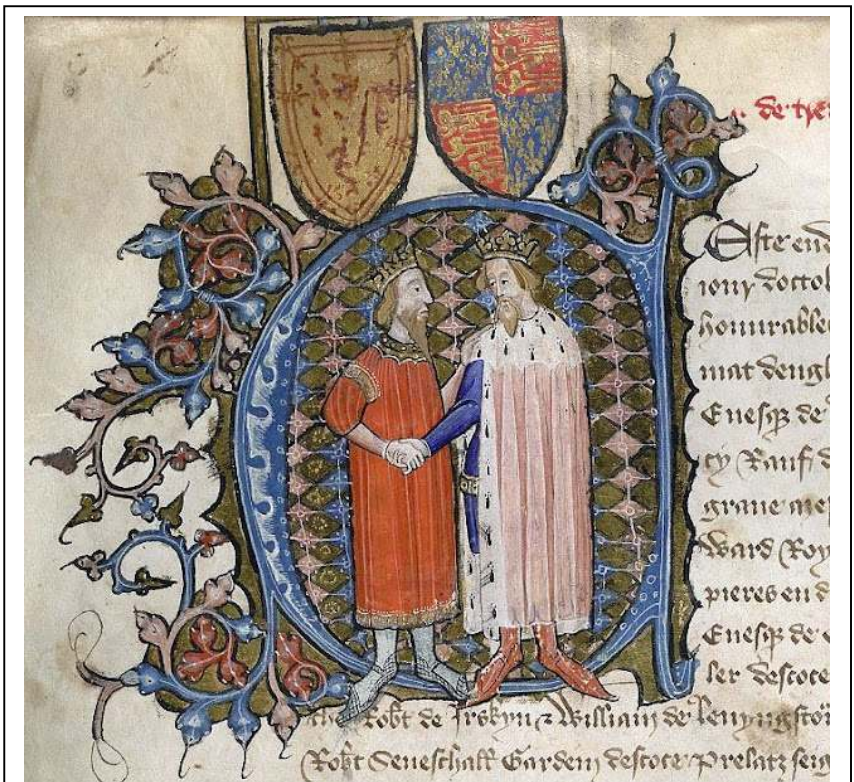
*The Ballyolle gave hym all the rycht,
That he had or he have mycht,
In till the kynryk off Scotland,
And prayid hym fast to tak on hand
Till wenge on the Scottis men
That he cald ill and wykyd then.*

A. Wyntoun, *Orygynale Cronykil of Scotland*, Bk. 8, ll. 6531-6

Bower's account, again apparently drawing on the same pro-Bruce source, catches Balliol coming and going, observing that Balliol's resignation was invalid because he had no right to be king in the first place *and* that even if he had a 'resignation is not valid unless it is made to an authority with power of institution' (i.e., Edward III had no right to accept it given that it was not through him that kingship of Scotland was instituted). The dramatic rendering of the event by these Scottish chroniclers is somewhat at odds with the text of Balliol's resignation itself, which instead emphasised the point that it was being made 'by reason of the impotence of his [i.e., Balliol's] body' and 'on account of his great age and feebleness and inability to continue the great labours he had to sustain'. Either way, the effect was the same. Balliol reputedly accompanied Edward III on the subsequent destructive campaign but with his return south his efforts to reclaim his Scottish inheritance came to a final, muted conclusion.

'The unhappy man': Final Years & Legacy, 1356-1364

Balliol's resignation in 1356 was given in return for a £2,000 annuity (equal to the value of the lands he had ceded to Edward III in 1332) as well as the right to retire to the manor of Wheatley, near Doncaster, in Yorkshire. As well as this substantial pension, Balliol continued to receive one-off gifts from the Edward III's royal administration. These were less regular than they had been before 1356 but tended to be fairly generous. They were invariably in cash rather than land, and thus until his dying day Balliol remained financially dependant on the English crown. He requested a number of pardons for his few followers, mostly for minor offences (although on two occasions for apparent murders!), but otherwise made no demands on his patrons. He died at some point between 1st and 24th January 1364, probably still at Wheatley. Beam has convincingly argued that the Balliol dynasty are best understood as English (not Scottish) lords first and foremost, men who pursued their ambitions through service to the English crown. But Edward Balliol was more reliant on the English crown than any of his predecessors had been as he lacked landed resources (and thus an affinity and revenues) *anywhere*. He had no reliable access to the royal demesne nor to his grandmother's lordship of Galloway during his time in Scotland, owned no lands in England after 1296, and was forfeited in France c. 1330. He does seem to have enjoyed some residual loyalty from the men of Galloway, but though this caused trouble for the Bruce Scots well into the 1360s (requiring the violent intervention of Archibald Douglas 'the Grim' to finally pacify the region on behalf of David II) it was not even sufficient to protect him from humiliation at Annan in December 1332. The large number of small grants to lesser men from Yorkshire and north-east England he made during his reign as King of Scots may suggest an attempt to rebuild the pre-1296 Balliol affinity, but even here his failure to do so is bound up with his inability to guarantee these men the practical enjoyment of these grants (itself bound up with the durability of post-1314 Bruce resettlement of Scotland that left Balliol unable to reward his followers without alienating experienced and influential war leaders among the Bruce Scots). Tied into the essentially 'English' nature of Balliol's outlook, he did not embrace the itinerant nature of Scottish kingship. His activities were largely confined to south-eastern and central Scotland from 1332-6, and in the decade after 1346 he was mostly stuck on Hestan Island. This was partly due to a lack of territorial control, but his inability to appear in the localities and make his personal authority felt further undermined what influence over the community of the realm he had been



King David II (left) and King Edward III (right), in British Library MS Cotton Nero D VI f. 66v. The development of an increasingly cooperative relationship between these two men from the late 1340s served to marginalise Balliol even further from English foreign policy. Balliol's growing alienation from the English royal administration, coupled with his advancing age, ultimately led to Balliol's effective retirement from active politics in 1356.

Image source:

<http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/illmanus/cottmanuscoll/e/011cotnerd00006u00061v00.html>

outlook, he did not embrace the itinerant nature of Scottish kingship. His activities were largely confined to south-eastern and central Scotland from 1332-6, and in the decade after 1346 he was mostly stuck on Hestan Island. This was partly due to a lack of territorial control, but his inability to appear in the localities and make his personal authority felt further undermined what influence over the community of the realm he had been

able to develop. Balliol held (we think) six parliaments - at Roxburgh in October/November 1332, at Perth in October 1333, then at Edinburgh in February 1334, October 1334, July 1335, and July 1336. The fact that all but one of his parliaments were confined to the south (and were limited almost exclusively to Edinburgh) is a further reflection of the limitations of his influence and authority. Perhaps most crucially of all, Balliol lacked Robert Bruce's willingness (or perhaps his capacity) to use parliament as a means of securing public assent from his subjects for his own policies. As Beam puts it, he was unable to manipulate 'the role, concept and ideology of the community of the realm', which Dr Roland Tanner has shown to be a key factor in ensuring Bruce's success in the period 1306-29. Balliol was, through no fault of his own, lacking a great many of the advantages that his rivals enjoyed, but when it came to the crunch he also proved himself to be unable to fully exploit what advantages he did have.



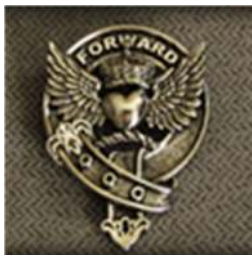
Hestan Island in the Solway Firth. Much of Balliol's time from 1346 until 1356 was spent living in a manor house on the northern side of the island. It's location was convenient for maintaining connections with his associates in Galloway, where residual loyalty to the Balliols remained fairly strong. However, he was unable to extend his authority much beyond this, and after 1356 he appears to have retired permanently to Yorkshire, fully abandoning his efforts to assert his rights north of the border. Image source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hestan.jpg>



Dr. Callum Watson is an historian, historical blogger, and an active member of the Late Antique and Medieval Postgraduate Society (LAMPS), a student-led society at the University of Edinburgh. He currently works as a Battle Coordinator at the Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre just outside Stirling. As Dr. Watson describes it, "This somewhat pompous title belies a job that mostly amounts to guiding visitors around the high tech 3D exhibition at the Centre."

A number of his historical blogposts can be viewed @ <https://drcallumwatson.blogspot.com/>

You can contact Dr. Callum Watson via email... <mailto:drcallumwatson@gmail.com>



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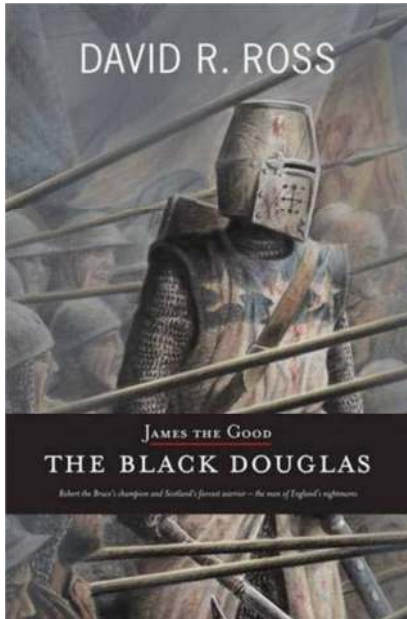
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<p>DOUGLAS</p> <p>DO YOU SEE A NAME FROM YOUR FAMILY HISTORY? MANY SPELLING VARIATIONS EXIST.</p>					

Remembering Andy Hillhouse

by Harold Edington

Not an April has gone by since 2018 that I don't have a quiet remembrance of artist Andrew Hillhouse. I don't want to impugn or diminish the talents of any other artist creating Douglas-themed work but, in my opinion, Andrew Hillhouse had a mind for History and an eye for creating not just works of art – Andy created works of inspiration.



The first Douglas artwork I ever saw by Andrew was the cover of David Ross' book "*James the Good: The Black Douglas*". The cover shot is Andrew Hillhouse's "*Bring It On – The Black Douglas*". Both the artwork and the book are among my personal favorites. I also have a Hillhouse print of this piece of artwork on my wall.

Andrew's artwork was on my mind in 2014 when I became the newsletter editor. I wanted something for the front page header that would accent "*Dabh Ghhlase*". I contacted Andy saying, "I recently saw a posting of your 2014 "Black Douglas" and I was, once again, blown away by your artwork. So much so that I wanted to ask if Clan Douglas Society of North America could have your permission to use a resized image of the 2014 "Black Douglas" on our CDSNA newsletter front page as a graphic for future newsletters." Andy responded the same day, "Yes, by all means. I'd be honoured. Please could you send me a copy of the finished piece for my portfolio?"

Andy was amazingly gracious. Not only did Andy give me permission to use "*Black Douglas*", he also sent me an email with a number of Douglas-themed images of his. We traded email pleasantries some after that.



In June of 2015, Andy emailed me again:

Hello, Harold, how are you?

Do you remember me? I draw and paint occasionally and you showed some interest in my work. Well, I've finally managed to get a web site together: <http://andrewhillhouseprints.co.uk>

I wonder whether you could have a wee look and, if it's interesting, maybe mention it on your Dabh Ghhlase. I'd still be up for a wee article!

All the best

Andy

The ARTWORK of ANDREW HILLHOUSE

Andrew Hillhouse is the artist responsible for our cover graphic.

See more of Andrew's works on his website:

<http://andrewhillhouseprints.co.uk>



Always light-hearted and humble when he communicated, I often wonder if Andy truly understood how gifted he was as an artist. I was very happy to accommodate his request to showcase some of his artwork in the September 2015 issue of **Dabh Ghhlase** and sent him a preview copy of the page. Andy responded, "My, my, that looks grand. Thank you so much! I should hire you as an agent!" Andrew later told me that sales of Douglas artwork from his site picked up significantly after the newsletter mention.

Lest there be someone reading this who is not aware of the artistic talents of Andrew Hillhouse, Andy painted a number of theme works, not just Douglas. The galleries of his work found on his website are testament to that. In late 2015/early 2016, I asked Andy if he had any notions of painting "Kirkpatrick's Bloody Deed" (in reference to Roger Kirkpatrick's famous, or infamous, "I'll make sure!" moment at Greyfriars kirk in February 1306. I mentioned,

"If you ever do a piece with Sir Roger (I make sure!) Kirkpatrick as the subject, please let me know. There are a number of us Kirkpatrick descendants who would be interested."

Andy replied,

"The incident in the church is certainly a subject that I will tackle at some point and Kirkpatrick would feature prominently. I'll get back to you for your opinion on fine details if that's alright?"

Andy and I went on to correspond irregularly until February 2017. Sadly, Andy never got back to me with a preview of a potential Kirkpatrick work. Even more sadly, on April 15, 2018, Andrew Hillhouse passed away at the too early age of 53.

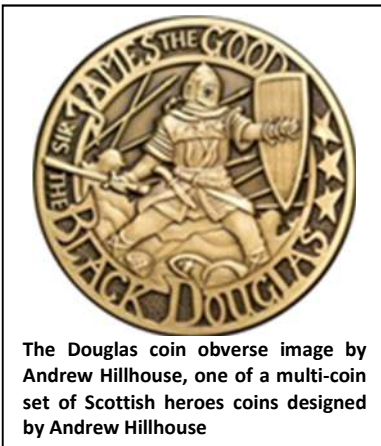
An obituary for Andrew appeared in a May 13, 2018 edition of *The Herald*. You can read the full article by following the link (<https://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/16223146.obituary---andrew-hillhouse-artist-known-images-william-wallace/>) but I will share a bit of what was written.

Fascinated since childhood by epic tales of Scottish heroes, Mr Hillhouse was surprised and pleased when his paintings began to be sought by charitable trusts, book publishers and television documentary-makers. In particular his images of Wallace have appeared on the covers of numerous books, magazines, CD and DVD covers; his Execution of Wallace featured in a documentary included on an American blu-ray release of Mel Gibson's iconic film Braveheart.

Three of his reconstructions of the Wallace period are on permanent display at the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum, while a further two works were included in their Bannockburn 2014 exhibition. As recognition of the Cockenzie-based artist's work spread, it led not just to further book illustration work, covering a wide range of historical periods, but also the unusual accolade of briefly becoming the official artist to the New Zealand All Black rugby legend Jonah Lomu.

An important figure in Mr Hillhouse's own artistic career was the Scottish author and historian David Ross, who encouraged him in his artistic work at a time when, as Mr Hillhouse admitted later, he "had lost all confidence in it". David Ross used many of Mr Hillhouse's paintings as cover and internal illustrations for his books on Scottish history. The resulting boost to Mr Hillhouse's confidence led to him giving public talks on his research and art production, especially in connection with the Scottish Wars of Independence.

And also this:



The Douglas coin obverse image by Andrew Hillhouse, one of a multi-coin set of Scottish heroes coins designed by Andrew Hillhouse

Modestly, and against all evidence to the contrary, Mr Hillhouse insisted that he wasn't "a real artist". On his own website, set up to sell prints of his work, he insisted: "I'm still just a guy who likes to doodle in his spare time. I have a full-time job that pays the bills and I'm happy to get the odd commission but I'm not sure I could ever make a living from it. And I think that's probably the way I like it."

Mr Hillhouse believed that this arrangement gave him the freedom to only paint what he wanted, rather than what he had to. "I'm just thankful that some people seem to like some of my work," he wrote.

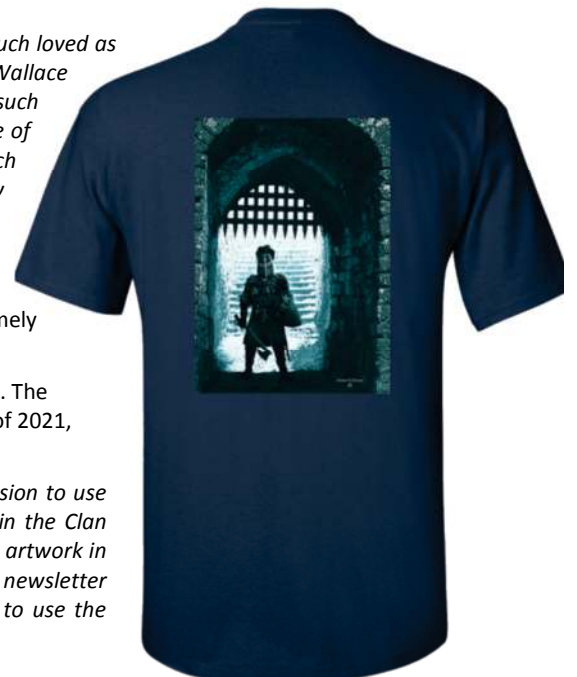
It was clear, though, that Mr Hillhouse was as much loved as a person as an artist. Society of William Wallace convenor Gary Stewart wrote: "Andy's work is such an inspiration, but it wasn't just that; he was one of the nicest guys I have ever met, who did so much work behind the scenes for the society, especially the Bell O' The Brae with the official design for

which there was no charge. Also, the coins he designed, with any profit not going to himself but the Bell O' The Brae fund.

Andrew's legacy and his kindness to our Clan Douglas Society did not end with his untimely death in 2018.

In 2020, CDSNA was looking for a shirt design that would feature one of Andrew's artworks. The design settled upon was one that would use Andy's "Castle Dangerous" piece. In October of 2021, I wrote to Vicky Hillhouse ...

I am writing to you on behalf of the Clan Douglas Society to ask you for permission to use one of Andy's Douglas-related works for our Society to use on a t-shirt. Many in the Clan Douglas Society love Andy's works. Although Andy gave me permission to use his artwork in the newsletter, I have told our Board that his agreement to use his works in the newsletter did not extend to any usage outside of the newsletter. The Society would like to use the "Castle Dangerous - seat of the Black Douglas" image on t-shirts for our Society.





Vicky responded,

I remember Andrew mentioning yourself and he often showed me his work in your newsletters. Andrew would have loved to see this print on a tee-shirt and I'm sure would have gladly allowed you to use it.

As I sit writing this, April 2023 is quickly coming to a close and I am filled with joy and sadness remembering my brief acquaintance with the very talented artist Andrew Hillhouse. What he could have created for all of us, had he lived longer, I cannot imagine; I only know it would have been amazing. And I know, also, that his artwork still speaks loudly and clearly today and you would do well to have an image or two by Andrew from Hillhouse Prints on your walls or maybe one of our CDSNA "**Castle Dangerous**" t-shirts as a means of remembering. And if you do share his memory by sporting his artwork, I am sure Andrew will be smiling from Heaven.



Black Douglas Ambush

by Artist Andrew Hillhouse



By mid-summer of 1327 the good, or the Black, Sir James Douglas was ravaging Weardale and the adjacent valleys of England. On 10 July a large English army, under the nominal command of the young English king, left York in a campaign to crush the highly mobile raiding Scots. The English commanders finally caught sight of their elusive opponents on the southern banks of the River Wear. The Scots were in a good position and declined all attempts to draw them into battle. After a while they left, only to take up an even stronger position at Stanhope Park, a hunting preserve belonging to the bishops of Durham. From here on the night of 4 August Douglas led an assault party across the river in a surprise attack on the sleeping English, later described in a French eye-witness account; "The Lord James Douglas took with him about two hundred men-at-arms, and passed the river far off from the host so that he was not perceived: and suddenly he broke into the English host about midnight crying 'Douglas!'

'Douglas!' 'Ye shall all die thieves of England'; and he slew three hundred men, some in their beds and some scarcely ready: and he stroke his horse with spurs, and came to the King's tent, always crying 'Douglas!', and stroke asunder two or three cords of the King's tent.

Panic and confusion spread throughout the camp:"

Edward himself only narrowly escaped capture, his own pastor being killed in his defence. The Battle of Stanhope Park, minor as it was, was a serious humiliation, and after the Scots outflanked their enemy the following night, heading back to the border, Edward is said to have wept in impotent rage. His army retired to York and disbanded. With no other recourse, the English opened peace negotiations with the Scots which were finally concluded the following year with the Treaty of Northampton. Finally, the English recognised the Bruce monarchy and the independence of Scotland.





Flowers of the Forest

Flowers of the Forest is an ancient Scottish folk tune typically played to honor fallen soldiers. Our ***Flowers of the Forest*** tradition as a clan is to pay tribute to our own “fallen soldiers”, our extended Clan Douglas family members.

Contact your local Regent, one of our Clan Douglas Officers, or the Newsletter Editor to submit a tribute.

Flowers of the Forest: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfsasAllCo8>
Apologies in advance, if you have to suffer through any ads.

Louann Smith Douglass May 31, 1941 - April 13, 2023

Louann Smith Douglass age 81 died at home on April 13, 2023. The cause of death was congestive heart failure.



She was born on May 31, 1941 in Rome, Georgia. Louann lived in Huntsville, Alabama, Zwiebruechen and Heidelberg, Germany before moving to Aurora, Colorado. Louann started her professional accounting career at the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center (NASA) on Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL where she met her future husband. She later transferred to the U. S. Army Missile Command (Army Material Command) Finance & Accounting Office. Louann, husband (Bill) and son Michael moved to Germany where sons Geoffrey and Christopher were born. In 1975 the family moved to Aurora, CO. As the boys grew older, she took on more part-time accounting work, retiring in 2001 as a medical office administrator. Louann was a member of the Cheery Creek Presbyterian Church where she served as a Deacon and as an Elder. She was also a Mothers of Pre-Schoolers (MOPS) mentor Mom.

Louann graduated from Howard College, now Samford University, Birmingham, AL where she was an officer in her sorority, Delta Zeta. She was an active member of P.E.O. for many years. Louann, a mother of three Eagle Scouts of whom she was very proud. Also, served as a docent at the Colorado Governor's Mansion in Denver. She had a strong Christian circle of friends including a group of Women in the Word and a Bible Study Koinonia, John II.



Survivors include husband, William E. Douglass, Jr., sons Michael (Barbara) of Alexandria, VA; Geoffrey (Layna) of Fallston, MD; and Christopher (Jennifer) of Broomfield, CO and Grandchildren Sylus and Vix Douglass of Broomfield, CO and Kyra Douglass of Fallston, MD. Also, her brother Marvin (Julie) Smith of Cumming, Georgia. Louann was preceded in death by her parents, Rebon and Pauline Smith and youngest brother Charles Smith.

A Memorial Service will be held at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church in Englewood, CO on June 16, 2023. Inurnment will be at Fort Logan National Cemetery, Denver, CO that morning for close friends and family.

Husband Bill Douglass says he will always be mindful of the help Louann gave to him and to our Clan Douglas Society during the many years that Bill served as Colorado Regent, AVP (West), VP and President and shares “*Louann was the power behind the throne.*”



NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Douglas Dancers Olivia Bishop & Kendall Blasuer & William Douglas of *The Douglas Archives* are this year's CDSNA Scholarship Recipients

Olivia Bishop

A recent addition to the Clan Douglas family, **Olivia Bishop (age 10) of McKinney Texas** has a true passion for the Scottish art of Highland Dance. Olivia studies under Mrs. Vicki Cana and Miss Jane Barras at the Blue Bonnets School of Highland Dance in McKinney. Only a beginner, Olivia has improved from competition to competition across this past year. In Salado TX, she won two, third place medals. In San Antonio this past April, she won three medals: one first and two second place, and took home the trophy for best dancer in her age group. And in Denver at the Southwest Regional competition this past April, she swept the awards with three first place medals and the trophy for best overall in her age group.

Now Olivia is headed to the Highland Dance National Championships in Portland Oregon this July. The competition will be more intense, but she's ready! Olivia is the youngest of four children, all homeschooled. In addition to dance, Olivia loves to sew, and has ambitions to learn kilt and Aboyne making to continue and pass along the incredible craft of Scottish kilt making. She's always found with a pencil in hand drawing, these days mostly Highland cows or Scottish dancers! Of Highland Dance, Olivia says, "I love wearing the beautiful, national costumes and dressing up for performances. I love performing; it makes me feel good that I've made people happy. I love going to Scottish Festivals, they are so much fun.

My goal is to go to Cowell one day and represent Texas Highland Dancing in Scotland. My teachers are Miss Vicki and Miss Jane, I love my teachers. They are nice and they teach me really well. My favorite dance to perform is the Sword Dance".



CLAN DOUGLAS SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, LTD.

May 10, 2023

Olivia Bishop
McKinney, TX

Dear Olivia,

Congratulations on being the recipient of the CLAN DOUGLAS SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, LTD. SCHOLARSHIP! The amount awarded is \$250.00 and the check is enclosed. The scholarship funds are to be used by you in the artistic pursuit of Highland Dance.

Your impressive Highland Dance achievements are inspirational and were the basis for our awarding the scholarship to you. We are confident that you will be equally successful in the future and hope this scholarship provides some assistance. Please submit a brief paragraph upon completion of using the scholarship funds for printing in the Clan Douglas newsletter, Dubh Ghlasé so all members can share in your artistic journey.

We're very proud of you, Olivia. Keep up the great work!

A Douglas! A Douglas! A Douglas!

Best regards,

Timothy Tyler

Timothy Tyler, President
Clan Douglas Society of North America

www.clandouglassociaty.org

Please join me in wishing Olivia well and rooting her on to victory in Portland!

Joan Bishop
(Dance
Mom)



NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Kendall Blausen

Kendall has been studying Highland Dance since she was three years old. Her current instructor is Kyla Groeschel. As Kendall has moved up in status, she has learned more than her Scottish heritage. Kendall knows that victories come through challenges and hard work. No “trophy for all” ever comes to her; each win is *earned*. This life skill will serve her well as she takes her place in society.

In addition, Kendall regularly participates in local shows such as the Burn’s Supper (Ripon, CA), the Christmas Celebration (Volcano, CA), etc. As a member of the Scottish Society, she knows of the expectation to serve others. She has plans to dance this summer at the local Meals on Wheels Café program.

It has been a challenging year as she moved to the highest level of Premier. She competed at the National level in Wisconsin last July. Her best score was 2nd in the Fling. She is looking forward to placing at Regionals in Costa Mesa in May and Nationals in Portland this summer.

Thanks for your support.

Linda Blausen
Grandmother & CDSNA Member



CLAN DOUGLAS SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, LTD.

May 10, 2023

Kendall Blausen
Elk Grove, CA

Dear Kendall,

Congratulations on being the recipient of a CLAN DOUGLAS SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, LTD. SCHOLARSHIP! The amount awarded is \$250.00 and the check is enclosed. The scholarship funds are to be used by you in the artistic pursuit of Highland Dance.

Your Highland Dance achievements truly inspire us. Your contributions to local events such as the Burns Suppers and Christmas Celebrations in California bring the artistry of Highland Dance to members throughout the community. Your service dancing at the local Meals on Wheels Café is truly inspirational. We are confident that you will be equally successful in the future and hope this scholarship provides some assistance. Please submit a brief paragraph upon completion of using the scholarship funds for printing in the Clan Douglas newsletter, Dubh Ghlasé so all members can share in your artistic journey.

Best of luck, Kendall, at the Regionals in Costa Mesa and the Nationals in Portland, Oregon. Be sure to stop by the Clan Douglas tent in both places to let us know how you are doing in the competitions. Keep up the great work!

A Douglas! A Douglas! A Douglas!

Best regards,

Timothy Tyler

Timothy Tyler, President
Clan Douglas Society of North America

www.clandougllassociety.org



NEWS FROM ALL OVER

William Douglas - The Douglas Archives



The Douglas Archives

A collection of historical and genealogical records

The Douglas Archives is a mix of historical records and biographies and also a genealogy database with details of 190,500+ individuals.



CLAN DOUGLAS SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, LTD.

May 25, 2023

William Douglas
Douglas Archives
Via email and electronic transfer

Dear William,

Congratulations on being the recipient of a CLAN DOUGLAS SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, LTD. SCHOLARSHIP. The amount awarded is USD \$250.00, which will be transferred to you electronically. The scholarship funds are to be used by you in the continued maintenance and development of the Douglas Archives, which so many of our members use as a resource for historical and genealogy information.

Your dedication and achievements are inspiring to those of us who hold our Scottish ancestry and culture so close. Your contributions are very much appreciated. We hope these funds will assist you in some small way to continue the Douglas Archives.

A Douglas! A Douglas! A Douglas!

Best regards,

Timothy Tyler

Timothy Tyler, President
Clan Douglas Society of North America

www.clandouglassociety.org

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

TARTAN DAY SOUTH HIGHLAND GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVAL Cayce (Columbia), South Carolina – March 30 – April 1



L-R: Kirsten Mogensen, Regent Chris Mogensen, Samuel Thayer, Caleb Papke, and Regent Sam Thayer

Clan Douglas Celebrates Tartan Day South: Rain and High Winds Couldn't Dampen Our Joy and Fun!

Despite the challenging weather conditions, Clan Douglas had an unforgettable and joyous experience at Tartan Day South in Cayce (Columbia), SC. The rain poured, and the winds howled, but it couldn't dampen our spirits or the excitement that filled the air.

From the moment we arrived, our clan members embraced the Scottish spirit and camaraderie, displaying resilience and a true love for our heritage. The sound of bagpipes echoed through the rain-soaked venue, transporting us to the misty hills of Scotland. It was a testament to our unwavering dedication and passion for preserving our traditions. As we gathered under our Clan Douglas banner, laughter and cheer prevailed. The



downpour became an impromptu water dance, and the wind added a whimsical twist to our tartans. Our members embraced the unpredictability of the weather, turning it into an opportunity for spontaneous merriment.

Then, the clouds broke, the wind died down, and the sun came out.

Jamais Arrière,

Regent Sam Thayer
& Regent Chris Douglass Mogensen



ORMOND BEACH CELTIC FESTIVAL Ormond Beach, Florida – April 14-15

The 12th Annual Ormond Beach Celtic Festival was held on April 14-15, 2023 on the grounds of The Casements - John D. Rockefeller's winter home. Clan Douglas proudly returned to our usual place along Clan Row.

The weather was a bit warm and humid, but the cool ocean breeze helped to mitigate the heat from the sun. A brief shower on Sunday afternoon did not dampen anyone's spirits.



Regent Jeff with new member Richard Hamilton

Helping me & my wife Mona in the tent were our usual cast of characters: past Regent Marc Hitchens and his companion Liz Tallarico; Mark and Sally Hill, National Treasurer Tom Douglas, and South Florida Regents Liz Douglass & her brother Russ Douglas and Russ' wife Libby. Many hands make light work and these individuals helped out immensely. I greatly appreciate their assistance to make this another successful event.

We welcomed 4 new members – Richard Hamilton, Lorena Slade, Laurie Williams, and Gina Pointer. Also stopping by to chat were current members Milt & Lisa Douglass (life member) and Greta Daigle. We always enjoy chatting with members and finding out more about their history.



FL South Regent Liz Douglass led the Douglas paraders

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Sally Hill brought her award winning Modern Shortbread cookies to share. She won 2nd place at the 2023 Central Florida Highland Games earlier this year.

We sold a number of items from the store including several of the new Castle Dangerous T-shirts. We saw one of them being worn at a local pub after the festival.

This concludes another successful Games season in Central Florida. We'll be back in January for the Central Florida Highland Festival. Please come join us if you are in the area.

Aye,
Jeff Sparks
Central Florida Regent



L-R: Regent Jeff Sparks, Mona Sparks, Mark Hill, Greta Daigle (holding banner), Sally Hill, Past FL Regent Marc Hitchins, CDSNA Treasurer Tom Douglas



LOCH NORMAN HIGHLAND GAMES Huntersville, North Carolina – April 15-16



L-R: Kirsten Mogensen, Regent Chris Mogensen, Regent Sam Thayer, and three unidentified Youngs

After a few years, Clan Douglas was back at Loch Norman! Twenty-four clans were on the field and it was good to see the Douglas tent back and bustling. It was a great two days with constant traffic at the tent where we helped several people trace their backgrounds and ties to Clan Douglas. Despite all the mud we had several Clan Douglas members march with us for the Parade of Tartans on Sunday. Though we hated it had to end we took with us many great memories, not to mention all the people we hope to reconnect with at future events.

Jamais Arrière,
Regent Sam Thayer
& Regent Chris Douglass Mogensen



L-R: Regent Sam Thayer with Life Member Edson Way



NEWS FROM ALL OVER

SOUTHERN MARYLAND CELTIC FESTIVAL St. Leonard, Maryland -- April 29

The Southern Maryland Celtic festival started off with some rainy weather, but after 2 hours of the gates opening the sun appeared and it became a beautiful day. We had a few allied families stop by to say hello and reconnected with other clan members at their tents too.

We are looking ahead to our next spring event and sharing with everyone in the newsletter.

James Agnew
Maryland Regent



Sporting our Red Douglas and Modern Douglas tartans!
L-R: MD Regent James Agnew, Briana Agnew,
Aaron Bethencourt, WV Regent Tyler Agnew



St. LOUIS SCOTTISH GAMES; Manchester, MO – May 6

After a 5 year hiatus, the St. Louis Scottish Games have returned to a new location in

the St. Louis Area. The event was held in Manchester, MO's Schroeder Park. The crowds attending far exceeded the organizers expectations and that fact was readily demonstrated by the far-to-long waiting lines in front of the two food vendors. Organizers shared with me that nearly 5,000 visitors attended the Games – 1500-2000 more than any typical event in past years.

The layout of the event was quite nice. The athletic fields were in the center with the few vendors and the 25 clans along clan row bordering. The event boasted a number of entertainers, as well. But, to be absolutely honest, I was so busy at our Douglas tent for so much of the day that I never had a chance to see much of anything beyond clan row.

The Lady Jennifer and I were joined in the Douglas tent early in the morning by Regent Tim Kirkpatrick and his sister Emily Kirkpatrick Grace, CDSNA Treasurer Tom Douglas, and our honored guest past MN Regent Sara Wolf Foss. Several CDSNA members were able to attend and it was grand seeing them all return with the event. Among those "coming home" were



We were honored by a visit from past MN Regent Sara Wolf Foss (now from Bremerton, WA) who marched with us in the parade. Sara was visiting with family in the area. Sara served as a MN Regent for 20+ years.



Regent Harold with members Linda & Bobby Scheaffer

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

brothers Monty and Daniel Douglas, Mark Brown, and Linda & Bobby Scheaffer. CDSNA also found a new member in Cameron Young – Welcome to the Family, Cameron! Another member not seen for years was Masters World Champion Highland Games athlete Terri Ventress who was utilizing her skills as an athletic judge.

Once word gets out that the St. Louis Scottish Games have returned, the gift and food vendors should vie for their positions at next year’s event. Perhaps the event will draw an even larger crowd next time. Let’s hope so.

Moving FORWARD,

Harold Edington
MO Regent



It was an excellent day! A BIG Thank You to CDSNA Treasurer Tom Douglas for joining us all day at the tent. CDSNA found a new member - Cameron Young -- and two others returned "home" -- Daniel & Monty Douglas. In the group photo (L-R) ... Emily Kirkpatrick Grace (sister of Regent Tim) and her sons, IL Regent Tim Kirkpatrick, MO Regent Harold Edington (with stick), Mark Brown, new member Cameron Young, CDSNA Treasurer Tom Douglas, brothers Monty & Daniel Douglas.



NEWS FROM ALL OVER

St. LOUIS SCOTTISH GAMES from an Athlete's Perspective

by Terri Douglas Ventress;

all photos courtesy of Larry Ventress, Pioneer Photography www.PioneerPhotography.photorelect.com

[Editor's Note: Terri Douglas Ventress, a senior design engineer at Oklahoma State University, captured her third consecutive Masters World Championships at the 2014 Highland Games in Inverness, Scotland and was the only athlete in the world to simultaneously hold all the Highland Games World Records in her age group.]

The St. Louis Scottish Games and Cultural Festival was back in force when over 60 athletes took the field for competition on the 6th of May. The event was held in a beautiful new venue, Schroeder Park, in Manchester, MO. It had been four long years since the last StL Festival had celebrated all things Scottish. For those of us deeply entrenched in this community, our collective hearts and souls were rejoicing on a multitude of levels, not the least of which was the freedom to gather and celebrate.

Personally, this festival has always been a favorite of mine, partially due to the outstanding venues and surrounding communities, but mostly due to the people that make the festival happen. Folks like Scott Runnels and Merl Lawless, athletics, have been a major part of the Regional Scottish Landscape for more than a quarter of a century. Their accumulated experience and outstanding acumen in setting up the field, events, and equipment; choosing and caring for their staff, judges, and athletes; going the extra mile and smiling the entire time – it makes people like me want to show up for their events, no matter the distance or location. We were all thrilled to be a part of the return to the athletics field in St. Louis this year!

My husband and I started this journey in 1997 as attendees-turned-athletes, and have continued for more than 25 years as athletes, athletic directors, coaches, photographers, travelers, and enthusiastic fans. While it may seem unnatural or amazing to the unfamiliar, our story is actually not at all uncommon in the Scottish Community. We are loyal, strong, and true. And we LOVE a good festival, with the pipers, Clan Tents (A Douglas!), musicians, weavers, herders and other demonstrations, and all of the vendors.

Part of what keeps me and Larry coming back is the ability to see and help the future generations. Both of us are Scottish, and our culture means a tremendous amount to us. At this year's Highland Games, we were excited to see that one of our favorite new athletes, Bri Boggs, brought her two daughters to compete, along with her best friend, Susan. They bring with them, every single game, a high degree of enthusiasm, fun, plus the huge work ethic and commitment that it takes to continue to improve and compete at a satisfying level. Suffice it to say that balancing home life with work, along with serious weight training and throws practice, is not for the meek. An example of Bri's intensity is shown in the following photo. I must also mention that my husband took almost a thousand athletic photos after judging his C Athletes for most of the day.



Bri Boggs on the Sheaf toss in the Masters Women's Class, all photo credits to my husband, Larry Ventress, **Pioneer Photography**.

Bri's daughter, Emma, competed in the Open Women's Class. Here she is in the Light Weight for Distance event:

It's easy to see that Emma shares her mother's intensity! I am so proud of this young family and their choice to compete in our beloved Scottish Highland Games.

Avery is Bri's younger daughter, and was also competing in St Louis, in the Lightweight Women's Class. In the photo below, Avery is tossing the open stone:

Avery is equally intense in a more compact package. I'm excited to see that her form and extension on the stone are fabulous, a result of the coaching she has gotten from her family, both blood and chosen. I'm equally excited to see that our Family Tree has grown a new, colorful branch!

One of the most recognizable events in the highland games is the caber. The caber looks like a telephone pole – it's HUGE! – and to see them flying puts a smile on my face every time.



NEWS FROM ALL OVER



The athlete has a great follow through, represented by his hands, still locked together, and his arms above his head. Not possibly knowing how this particular toss ended up, my best guess is that it was very perfect, or nearly so. He is competing in the top Men's group, the A Class, where technique and brute strength are King.

The classic itinerary in a highland games is to compete in nine total events: both Braemar and Open stones, heavy and light weights for distance, heavy and light hammers, caber, heavy weight over bar, and the sheaf toss.

All of these events have been covered in detail previously in our newsletters, but more information can easily be found online. Generally speaking, the heavy events favor strength and the light events favor speed. All events take a unique combination of both. That's why you'll often see that an athlete is excellent in one event, but not even both events of the same type. It's much more rare to see athletes that have mastered all of the events, and further still to see an athlete put together a solid performance on any given day. All of these events are harder than they look, and a plethora of variables are always at play. Very Scottish, IMO. We're always fans of the hard, because that's what makes it great. Simple can be done by anyone.

At right is another outstanding photo of the Scottish Hammer. Larry caught this one of Jacob Keys. Note Jacob's extension from left toe to head, leaning into the throw with his



upper body, and perfectly loose but straight from shoulder to hammer head. This form is absolutely textbook for the release. Jacob competed in the 40+ Men's Masters Class.



Most Highland Games end the day with extra challenges or events. Saint Louis chose to have both the Schafly Stones and a beer keg for height. The Schafly stones come in at nearly 500 pounds total or 18 stones a piece (that's nearly 250 pounds each for you newbies). The stones are picked up and carried as far as the athlete can, with the winner being the person that hauled them the longest distance without releasing them. The winner this year at StL was Michael Teuton. He carried the massive stones for a distance of 60 feet. For all of you in the area, please support Schafly as much as you can. They have always been, and continue to be, an excellent sponsor of the Scottish Highland Games, and this festival in particular.

Last but obviously not least, we have a photo of Bri Boggs showing her intensity again, this time in the keg toss.

The winner of the Women's keg toss was Madison Weinreich at 17 feet. The Men's winner was Mathew Carnduff, at 23 feet!

The Highland Games Family is truly that: Our Family. We have competed, sweated, recovered with, and supported each other for over 25 years. It is exactly the new throwers, like Bri and her girls, that keep Larry and me enthusiastic about the

athletics and coming back to help run them and coach athletes, in any way we can. **Always Forward!**



NEWS FROM ALL OVER

RIO GRANDE VALLEY CELTIC FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES Albuquerque, New Mexico – May 6-7



IGlets_wend_with_wendy (hayes)

Our booth crew (photo courtesy of Wendy Hayes)

Our booth crew left to right, Steven Douglas, Eric “the Brown” Vigil Regent, Paula Ross, Paul Duval (future co-regent) and Tomaz Cervantes.

Our 10x20 clan tent at the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games. May 6 & 7 Albuquerque New Mexico.

9 years of building the clan representation and looking forward to the next generation of clansmen.

Eric “The Brown” Vigil
New Mexico State Regent
A Douglas A Douglas..!



NEWS FROM ALL OVER

BADIN CELTIC FESTIVAL Badin, North Carolina – May 13

This month Kirsten and I set up the Clan Douglas tent at the Badin Celtic Festival in Badin, NC. The festival is fairly new, but there was a good crowd, fair weather, great music, food, and fellowship.

Chris Douglass Mogensen
NC Co-Regent



L-R: Tim Irvin (festival organizer), Kirsten Mogensen, & Regent Chris Douglass Mogensen



Curtis Rowell appointed new Co-Regent for South Carolina

I am a *ServiceNow* Solutions Architect working for one of the largest STD, LTD and Life Insurance organizations in the world. I've been working for them about 2 1/2 years and in the IT industry for 30 years.

I got hooked on Renaissance Fairs about 7 years ago when I first met my wife, Nikki, to whom I've been married for almost 3 years now (Sept 26 2020).

Since that time, I did a bunch of research on my family tree, found Clan Douglas and the affiliation between Rowell and Douglas and consume anything I can find on Clan Douglas history.



NEWS FROM ALL OVER

SMOKY MOUNTAIN SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

Townsend, Tennessee – May 20-21



The May 20-21 weekend at the Smoky Mountains Scottish Festival and Highland Games in Townsend, Tennessee was amazing! The weather was typically Scottish, but with the views of the Great Smoky Mountains in the background, that was as it should be. Ah, home in Scotland!

The weekend started on Friday night with a Calling of the Clans and a Torchlight Ceremony. What a beautiful way to start the weekend with torches lighting up the mountain in the background.

There were 58 Clan booths set up at this two-day festival. Besides heavy athletics, there were several Pipe & Drum bands, Highland dancers, kids' games & activities, Clan Competitions, ax throwing, food, drinks and a Kirk Service.



Skylar Chastain and Regents Betsy & Tyson Chastain.
Dogs Brooklyn & Maizey



Regent Tyson Chastain and
new member, Randy Fritchman



New member, Jake Causey

We had many descendants of Douglas, septs and allies stop by and visit. Clan Tents completely surrounded the game field at this festival. Each clan has their display tent facing out and then 10 feet behind it up against the event field for your own area to rest (!?) and watch some games/exhibitions. We had many Douglas people stop by and sit in the respite area for a refreshing ice water, a bite of homemade Scottish shortbread or possibly a wee dram.

There was a constant flow of people in and out of the Clan Douglas tent both days with four new members joining CDSNA, with one being a new lifetime member! We also had one other lifetime CDSNA member stop by to say hello. There really was never much time for us to sit down ...lots and lots of people attend this festival. Lots of new kin to meet!

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

The best 'new Douglas' is our own 9-month-old granddaughter. She was a hit in the Tartan Parade in her wee kilt!

Tyson & Betsy Chastain
Regents Tennessee East



Skyler Chastain and his daughter Abbey Rose in the Tartan Parade



Regents Tyson & Betsy Chastain with new Life Member Patrick Stephens and wife, Carrie



New member, Erik Larson



Lifetime member, Scott Douglass stopped by (left), Tyson Chastain (right)



NEWS FROM ALL OVER

STIRLING CLASSIC SCOTTISH FESTIVAL; Yukon, Oklahoma – May 19-20

The 4th annual Stirling Classic Scottish Festival was held in Yukon, Oklahoma, on May 19-21, 2023. Friday night was lightly attended due to unseasonably cold weather, but we had a nice fire ceremony with the largest number of clans yet to participate and a ceilidh with live music afterward.

The weather for the remainder of the weekend was spectacular and this smaller festival was fairly well attended, particularly on Saturday. There were nine clan tents total and we all had a good view of the athletics field. The opening ceremony and clan march on Saturday was very well done with the pipe bands, athletes, and clan representatives joining together to form a circle around the Yukon Police Department's color guard with the American flag flying high overhead from a ladder truck from the Yukon Fire Department.

The highlight of the festival by far was Dazzle the Scottish Unicorn! Kim Hawkins, whose mother is a Douglass, brought her beautiful cremello American Quarter Horse (or unicorn, rather) to the festival on



unicorn - Dazzle the Unicorn in front of the Clan Douglas tent. Dazzle is owned by Kim Hawkins, whose mother is a Douglass.

Saturday and Sunday to the great delight of both adults and children alike. Dazzle was very well behaved and loved being the center of attention. Dazzle has a real horn, of course, but she just happens to have a halter that coincidentally fits around the horn to "keep it from being stolen" since it is magical.

An exciting addition to the Oklahoma Clan Douglas tent display are four prints by Scottish artist Andrew Hillhouse. I was able to purchase banners depicting four of his paintings of the



lace examples - on display from the Lacemakers Guild of Oklahoma



lace making - a traditional lace maker demonstrating her craft. It takes one hour to make one inch of lace.



Black Douglas artwork - this is one of four paintings from Scottish artist Andrew Hillhouse depicting the Black Douglas. All four paintings and their descriptions were on display in the Clan Douglas tent.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER



Blaylocks - Bryan Blaylock, wife Heather, and daughter Saren from Texas. Bryan is one of the drummers for the band Scotland Rising who played at the festival.

Black Douglas from his studio in Scotland, and a local banner shop printed the descriptions to go alongside each of the paintings. These paintings provide an insight into part of our clan's history and help it to come alive for the viewer.

Also attending the festival again this year were the blacksmiths, sheep herding dogs, and many vendors, and a fascinating new addition was the Lacemakers Guild of Oklahoma who demonstrated their lacemaking skills and displayed beautiful examples of their traditional handiwork.

One of the Celtic bands playing at the festival this weekend was Scotland Rising featuring two Douglases - Bryan Blaylock and Daniel Dossey, both on drums, along with pipers from Oklahoma and Texas. They also helped to lead the clan march on Saturday.

Jay and Kim Douglas became lifetime members of CDSNA, and it was great to see Clan Douglas friends from previous festivals as well as meeting new Douglases.

The next festival for Oklahoma will be Scotfest in Broken Arrow on September 16-17, 2023.

Jody Blaylock
Oklahoma Regent



Jay and Kim Douglas - became lifetime CDSNA members



Stephen and Dawn (Douglas) Toney - Clan Douglas members who attend this festival and other local Scottish events regularly.



NEWS FROM ALL OVER

SPRINGFIELD AREA HIGHLAND GAMES

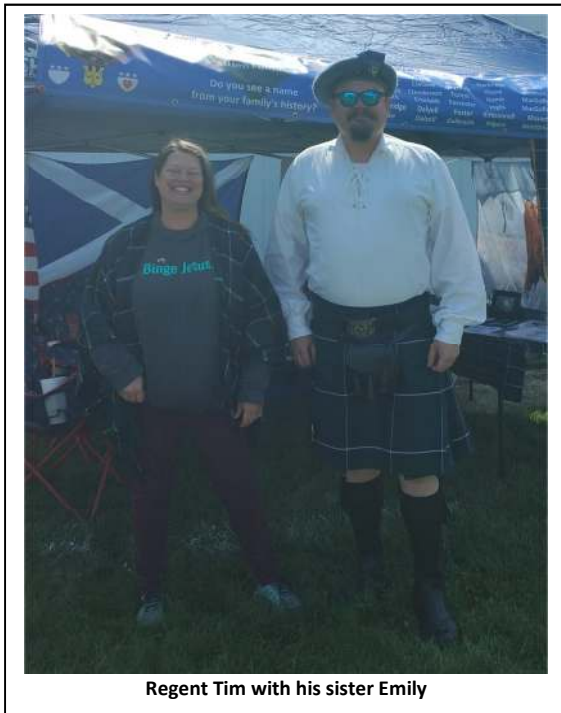
New Berlin, Illinois – May 20

MISSOURI RIVER IRISH FEST

St. Charles, Missouri – May 27

Greetings!

It's been a rough few years hasn't it. But it seems like much in the words of the great Warren G. Harding "we are finally returning to Normalcy."



Regent Tim with his sister Emily

St Louis, MO had the first Highland Games in the last few years, and we intend to keep building back even bigger and stronger. But *The Show Me State* is Harold's wheelhouse so I will let him tell you all about that. I am just proud to have been a part of it.

On May 20 we hosted a Clan Douglas Tent at the Springfield Area Highland Games at the Sangamon County Fairgrounds in New Berlin, Illinois. I was glad to have my sister Emily there to help out, as well as bringing along some heart shaped shortbread and Scotch Eggs. And we made a proud showing for the tartan parade that day, as well as handing out membership forms to many potential new Clan Douglas members.

On May 27th I attended the Missouri River Irish Fest at the riverfront in St Charles, Missouri. I am the State Regent for Illinois, not Missouri, but I happen to live on the border between those two states and I am always happy to represent. Some people ask me why a Scottish group would attend an Irish event.



The answer is simple: Whether you call it "Scottish" "Irish" "Highland" or "Celtic", all Celtic heritage is welcome and appreciated. I had many people glad to see me in a Douglas Tartan kilt, and not a single person who was negative to it. That's what it's all about.

To turn the subject back to the Land of Lincoln, The Chicago Highland Games will be held June 16-17, 2023 at Hamilton Lakes, 2 Pierce Road, Itasca, IL 60143. I don't think I will be able to attend but if you can, please take pictures and share your stories with us. For more information visit Chicagoscots.org

Tim Kirkpatrick
Illinois State Regent, CDSNA



NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Did I hear you correctly? YOUR AREA OR LOCAL EVENT DOESN'T HAVE A CDSNA REGENT?

Consider becoming the Regent for that event or that area or that state/province.

What is required to be a Regent (you may be asking)?

A few things. First, you must be a member of CDSNA. Second, you need some enthusiasm. Third, you need the **3 Cs**: **C**alm, **C**ommitment, and a **C**aring attitude for others. OK ... you got me ... there is a *wee* bit more **BUT** that's where it starts.

How can you become a Regent for CDSNA?

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A HISTORY
OF THE
House of Douglas

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES DOWN TO THE
LEGISLATIVE UNION OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

BY THE
RIGHT HON. SIR HERBERT MAXWELL

BART., M.P., F.R.S., LL.D.
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
W. A. LINDSAY, WINDSOR HERALD

IN TWO VOLUMES

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A History of the House of Douglas

from the earliest times down to the legislative union of England and Scotland (published 1902)

By Sir Herbert Eustace Maxwell, Bt. 1845-1937

A quick intro from the Dubh Ghlasé editor

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by Maxwell, Herbert Eustace, Sir, bart., 1845-1937

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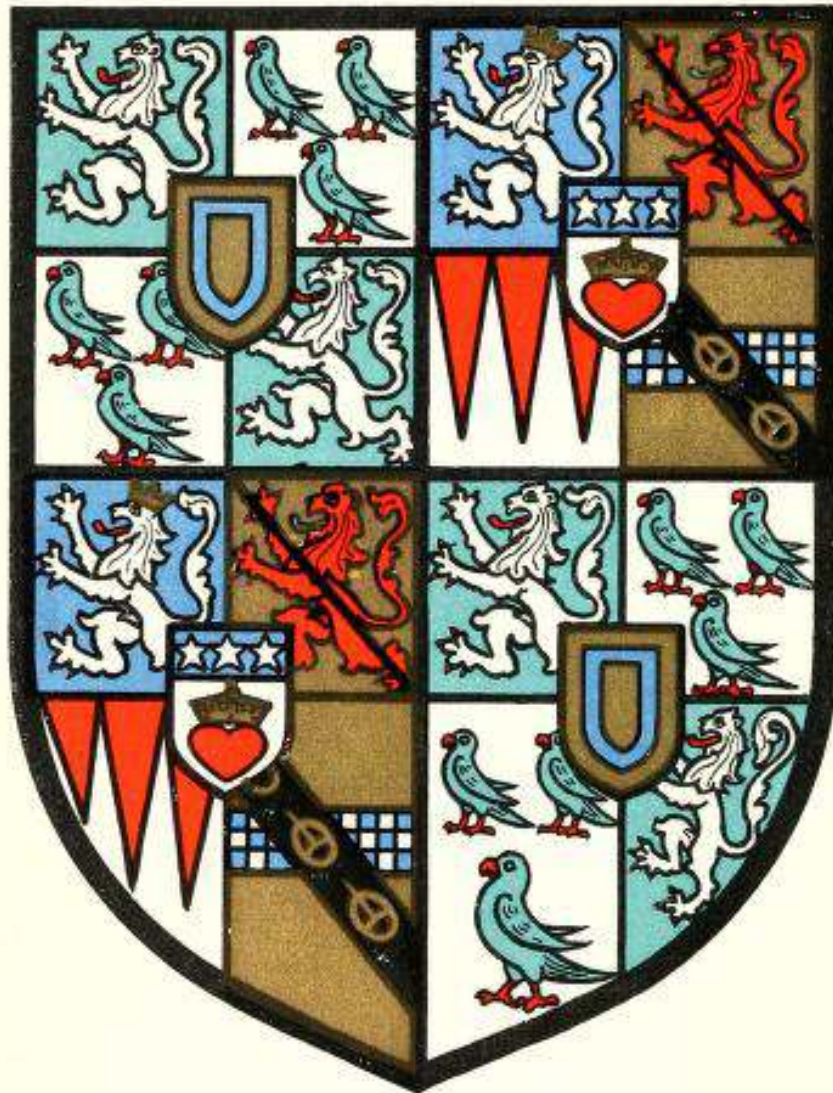
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If you received the September issue of Dubh Ghlasé, you will recognize that the above information is a repeat from that issue. This has been done on purpose so that anyone who has not yet read the previous chapter can find a copy to read and anyone not wanting to wait three months for the next chapter will have an opportunity to read ahead or to acquire the complete book in either digital or print formats.

If you did not receive a copy of the September 2022 issue, you can always email the Editor and request a link to that issue.

That being said... Let's move FORWARD to Chapter 4.



Charles Alexander Douglas-Home, 12th Earl of Home, 2nd Baron Douglas of Douglas, etc.

DEDICATED TO
CHARLES ALEXANDER DOUGLAS
XII EARL OF HOME
Lord Douglas of Douglas
IN GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF
THE ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY HIM IN
COMPILING THIS WORK

CHAPTER IV

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IT has been told in the last chapter how James, son of the 1st Earl of Douglas, married Princess Isabel, daughter of Robert II.¹ Born about 1358, he would be about six-and-twenty when he succeeded his father in 1384. About the year 1380 his father made over to him the lordship of Liddesdale, and he became known as Sir James Douglas of Liddesdale. One must run the risk of being tiresome in these details in order to maintain distinction between the several individuals in this family.

Any attempt to determine the exact sequence of the events of 1384 is well-nigh hopeless; but for the purpose of the present narrative it is enough to state that about the time of the Duke of Lancaster's retreat from Edinburgh in April and Earl William's death in May, duly accredited French envoys arrived in Edinburgh from London to invite the Scottish King and Council to join in a truce

¹ The Papal dispensation for this marriage applies to Princess Margaret, evidently a curious clerical error, for Princess Margaret had been married to the Lord of the Isles since about 1350. This suggests a nice question as to the legitimacy of offspring of a marriage contracted under a dispensation specifying the wrong person. In this instance there was only one child of the marriage, who died an infant.

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for eight months between France and England, which had been arranged so long before as 26th January. Nearly simultaneously another party of thirty French knights, under Sir Geoffrey de Charny, landed at Montrose on a far different mission. They came frankly in search of chivalrous adventure, and, having ridden to Perth, sent two of their number to sound the chevaliers of King Robert's Court, to whom they offered their services against the English. The Earl of Douglas and Lord Lindsay received them in a corresponding spirit, and forthwith mustered their forces. Followed a raid into England, with burning and spoiling on the lands of the Earls of Northumberland and Nottingham and Lord Moubray, of a kind which greatly edified the gentlemen of France. While this sport was going forward the official French envoys were solemnly sitting in Edinburgh negotiating the terms of truce. King Robert, both from policy and personal inclination, heartily desiring peace, disapproved of the action of his young bloods, though he was not strong enough to interfere with their proceedings; but he sent Lyon Herald to London to explain the circumstances. His representations were accepted, and on 7th July the Scottish commissioners in Edinburgh agreed to the triple truce, which was to endure till 1st October following, and was afterwards extended until May 1385.

The French knights-errant returned to France, charged by Douglas and Moray to let it be known there what a fine field of adventure lay open in Scotland to chevaliers of enterprise. De Charny assured his hosts that they would return as soon as possible with a thousand lances, "for it was not a thing to be forgotten."¹ Accordingly, no sooner had the truce expired next year than Sir John de Vienne, Admiral of France, landed in Leith with 2000 men, 1000 complete suits of armour,² and 50,000 gold francs, all in accord with the treaty of 1383. Of the hard cash, one-fifth was paid to

Arrival of
French
knights in
Edinburgh,
April [?] 1384.

French
expedition to
Scotland,
May 1385.

¹ Froissart, ii. c. 50.

² The number actually delivered is stated variously between 1400 and 200.

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King Robert and the rest was divided among the Scottish earls and barons.¹ Douglas and Moray exerted themselves for the entertainment of the foreigners, finding lodging in Dunbar, Dalkeith, and Kelso for those who could not be accommodated in Edinburgh, where there were not in the whole town 4000 houses.² But, alas! the same east wind which had made their voyage so prosperous gave a very unfavourable aspect to Edinburgh and its environs, as it is wont to do in spring, even in this our day. The French knights cursed de Charny for deluding them into such a god-forsaken country. "In Scotland you shall never find a man of worth: they are like savages, who wish not to be acquainted with anybody, and are too envious of the good fortune of others, and suspicious of losing anything themselves, for the country is miserably poor. However," adds the French chronicler, "the Earls of Douglas and Moray paid the gentlemen of France more attention than all the rest of Scotland."³ The fact is, that, except these two earls and a few hot young spirits, nobody in Scotland wanted an English war at this time. King Robert was absent in the Highlands, purposely keeping out of the way; the barons and gentry wanted to attend to their private affairs, and held coldly aloof from the excitable foreigners,—“What devil has brought them here?—they will very soon eat up all we have in the country.” The farmers and peasants were more vigorously unfriendly, not only resisting by force the depredations of the French foragers, but selling them bad horses at fancy prices.

At last King Robert, “with bleared eyes as red as sendal,” returned to his capital, and, perceiving that Douglas, Moray, and Fife had made up their minds for business, and were too deeply committed to their French friends to consent to disappoint them, gave a reluctant assent to the assembly of an army of invasion, which marched for the south shortly after Midsummer. Parliament decreed [1st July 1385] that every man in that army, whether French

¹ *Fadera*, vii. 484.

² Froissart, ii. 160. Some texts give only 400.

³ *Ibid.*

or Scottish, should wear the cross of St. Andrew in white both on back and breast. The King's presence did not much mend matters in the view of the French adventurers. Scotland had been steadily feudalised since the reign of David I., but Scottish feudalism had ever been of a milder type than its counterpart on the continent and even in England. The rights of the commonalty may have been—often were—rudely trampled upon by individual barons, but the constitution recognised and respected them as they were recognised and respected in no other country.¹ Consequently Sir John de Vienne and his knights waxed very indignant when they were called upon to submit to regulations imposed by the Estates for the conduct of the army and its foreign contingent.² Pay for all they—the flower of French chivalry—chose to requisition from mere burghers and boors! Was there ever such preposterous red tape?

Matters neared a climax when the expedition approached Roxburgh Castle. Here was a fair nut for the French knights to crack, and de Vienne began boasting how he intended it as a gift for the King of France.³ Upon hearing this, Douglas put down his foot, explaining to his allies that they were serving in the army of the King of Scots, and not as freebooters.⁴ So Roxburgh was left alone, and successful assaults were made instead upon Ford, Cornhill, and Wark, the brunt of the fighting being accorded to the French. Meanwhile Richard II. was approaching with an army suitable for an opponent of the dignity of the Admiral of France, far superior in strength to the Scottish levies, and in equipment also, notwithstanding the thousand suits of mail sent from France, with which “those who had them were much delighted.” King Richard was but a youth of nineteen, but he had as lieutenant his redoubtable uncle, John of

Richard II.
invades Scot-
land, 1385.

Richard II. Admiral of France, far superior in strength to the Scottish levies, and in equipment also, notwithstanding the thousand suits of mail sent from France, with which “those who had them were much delighted.” King Richard was but a youth of nineteen, but he had as lieutenant his redoubtable uncle, John of

¹ Compare, previous to the sixteenth century, the mildness of the Scottish criminal code, especially the forest laws, with the ferocity of certain English and French statutes.

² *Acts of Parl. Scot.*, i. 190.

³ Fordun, ii. 401.

⁴ Sir R. Maitland's MS., quoted by Fraser, i. 300.

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Gaunt. In accordance with the traditional Scottish strategy, orders were issued for retreat, the land to be wasted before the English. Unhappily, the Scots barons were not all true to their colours. To follow the political vagaries of the Earls of March during these wars is to enter a bewildering labyrinth with a broken clue. On this occasion George of March had gone over to the English interest—a most important defection, seeing that he held the passes of Cockburnspath on the direct road to the Scottish capital. He had received supplies from the King of England, who, on 11th June 1385, gave a safe-conduct to one John Crystalle, a Scots mariner, to take his ship to English ports, there to buy provisions “for the King’s dear and beloved George, son of his dear cousin the Earl of Dunbar and his garrison of Colbranspathe.”¹

The Fabian strategy of the Scottish leaders was neither understood nor relished by the French chevaliers. They protested that they had come to fight, not to run away.

“By God!” swore Sir John de Vienne, “I will have a battle!”

“So you shall,” said Douglas, “if you are of the same mind after you have reconnoitred the enemy.”

Douglas then took de Vienne and his staff to the top of a hill overlooking a defile through which the English were marching.² The admiral was at last convinced that it would be insane to attack such a powerful force with the

¹ Bain, iv. 76.

² It is vain to arrive at the true scale of armaments at this time through the statements of monkish chroniclers, to whom a cipher more or less was a matter of small account. Walsingham puts King Richard’s army at 7000 men-at-arms, 60,000 archers, and 100,000 horse! Perhaps these figures may be divided by five, or even ten. It is on record [Bain, iv. 77] that the contingent furnished to King Richard’s army on this occasion by the Percys, Sir John Nevill, Sir Thomas Swinburne, and Sir Richard Tempest consisted of 520 men-at-arms and 1260 archers. The condition prescribed was that two-thirds of this force were to be *strangers to the Marches*, showing that the Borderers, being sensible fellows, had become convinced by this time of the uselessness of destroying each other’s property, and were anxious to attend to their proper industry.

troops at their disposal; but he demanded to be led into England upon a counter-invasion.

This was mightily to Douglas's taste. King Robert, rather a wet blanket on the operations, retired once more to the Highlands, leaving the Earl of Douglas, Archibald the Grim, and the Frenchmen to make a destructive raid over the West Marches upon Cumberland. Here at last the foreigners enjoyed great sport, finishing up before Carlisle, under the walls of which "many handsome feats of arms were performed."¹ For a time they were in high good-humour, vowing that they had burnt more in the bishoprics of Carlisle and Durham than the whole of Scotland was worth.² But when they got back to Edinburgh they had great reason to be dissatisfied. The King of England had been there, and his operations had greatly tightened the markets; the obligation to pay for everything they wanted seemed more than ever unreasonable to the chevaliers. The Scots were unmannerly enough to declare that their French allies wrought more mischief in the land than the English, because the French rode through their standing crops in preference to the high roads. It is easy to imagine that the going was better, but the damage had to be paid for. Unseemly wrangles ensued; Douglas and Moray found themselves unpleasantly situated between farmers clamouring for compensation and de Vienne's knights indignantly refusing it as a thing unheard of. Finally the admiral had to give way, for he depended on Scottish mariners for transport to his own country; the claimants were paid, or were promised payment in full, and the French knights sailed away cursing the beggarly Scots and the hour that ever they set foot in their miserable country.³

¹ Froissart, ii. c. 172.

² Bain, iv. 78.

³ Probably Froissart is a little biased in his account of these transactions. The chief objection to allowing the French knights to depart was that the payment under treaty had not been made. This was done on 16th November 1385, as shown by the receipt. Douglas received the lion's share of the 50,000 gold francs, namely, 7500; Moray getting only 1000 (*Federa*, vii. 484), but perhaps Douglas put more men in the field than anybody else. Archibald the Grim [xiii.] received 5000.

FIFE INVADES ENGLAND

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In 1386 the happy thought occurred to the Earl of Douglas that the fine lands round Cocker-
Douglas raids
Cocker-
mouth, 1386. mouth had never been raided since the days of his grand-uncle, the good Sir James. The opportunity was tempting, for Nevill had just been deprived of the wardenship of the East March in favour of Percy, and the warden of the West March was engaged in trying to keep the peace between these rival lords. Therefore Douglas, accompanied by the King's second son, the Earl of Fife, and a sufficient force, rode across the Esk and so to Cocker-
Douglas raids
Cocker-
mouth, 1386. mouth, where "there was not one among the Scots so feeble but that, unless he were unwilling, he was able to fill his hands with good booty."

For nearly two years after this exploit there was comparative peace on the Borders, and the Earl of Douglas occupied himself in the management of his estates, as appears from sundry charters given under his hand.¹ But King Richard, though starved out of Scotland in his expedition of 1385, had left some grievous sores behind him, having burnt once more the abbeys of Melrose, Dryburgh, and Newbattle. Ill-blood still boiled between the Nevills and the Percys; King Richard's hands were full of his domestic quarrels: clearly it was a grand opportunity for a stroke. Blear-eyed King Robert was

hopelessly pacific; the chief earls and barons met at Aberdeen and, without consulting him, arranged a great muster at Jedburgh in the beginning of
A fresh invasion of England, August 1388. August 1388. Hither came the Earl of Fife,

for although his father, King Robert, "would rather remain at home than march to the field, he had nine sons who loved arms."² The Earls of March and Moray also brought their vassals and levies, Archibald the Grim too, Sir John de Montgomery, "with his son Sir John and his two sons," Sir John Maxwell of Carlaverock, with Lindsays, Drummonds, Swintons, and a great part of the chivalry of Scotland. The army, according to Froissart, whose arithmetic, however, is not always unimpeachable, numbered

¹ Fraser, i. 305, 306, iii. 71-73.

² Froissart, ii. c. 169.

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1200 spears and 40,000 of other arms. Spies, as usual, carried information of the gathering to Warden Percy, but a young English gentleman who undertook that business came near to a violent end. Tying his horse to a tree, he entered the church of Yetholm where a council of war was being held, and, having heard enough for his purpose, slipped quietly back to get his horse. Of course the horse was not there, "for a Scotsman (they are all thieves) had stolen him."¹ He set off on foot booted and spurred, but his appearance was against him; he was stopped at the outposts and brought before the Earl of Douglas. Under examination he acknowledged that Percy knew all about the impending invasion, and was prepared to make a counter-raid in such direction as the movement of the Scots should leave open to him. Hearing this, the Scottish leaders decided to divide their forces. A flying column was detached under the Earl of Douglas to harry Northumberland, while the main body should march to Carlisle under the Earl of Fife.

" It fell about the Tammastide,
 When the muir men win their hay,
 The doughty Douglas bonn' him ride
 Into England to drive a prey.

He chose the Gordons and the Grames,
 With them the Lindsays light and gay,
 But the Jardines would not with him ride,
 And they rue it to this day."²

It was like old times, for at the head of the flying column, which consisted of 300 or 400 spears and 2000 bowmen and others, rode together as of yore the Douglas and the Moray. They passed through the Reedswire, under Ottercop and Rothley Crag, and pushed as far as Brancepeth, close to the Yorkshire border. Thence they

¹ Froissart, iii. 124.

² The allusion in the last couplet is obscure, and is probably a late interpolation made after the Jardines had risen into greater note than was theirs in the fourteenth century, when they were but respectable vassals of Annandale.

A CHALLENGE TO HOTSPUR 107

swept round to display their colours on the rising ground close to the walls of Newcastle. Here was a strong force under "Hotspur" Percy and his brother Sir Ralph, the old Earl of Northumberland lying in wait in Alnwick to flank the Scots on their homeward march. In accord with the quixotic spirit of chivalrous war, an attempt was made at escalade, which was easily repulsed; and the garrison might have defied the utmost efforts of such a weak column by simply remaining within their defences. But where had been the glory of knighthood that shrank from adventure in arms? During two or three days there were incessant skirmishes between detachments and single combats *à outrance* between chevaliers. Douglas challenged Hotspur and fought him hand to hand; loudly cheered the Scots when the famous English knight went down. Douglas snatched his pennon, which he bore out of the lists.

Douglas captures Percy's pennon, August 1388.

"I will carry it to Scotland," he cried, "and hoist it on my tower,¹ where it may be seen afar."

"By God!" retorted Hotspur, "you shall never leave Northumberland alive with that."

"Then you must come and take it this night," answered Douglas. "Your pennon shall stand before my tent, for him to take who dares."

This challenge was not accepted: the night passed quietly; the Scots broke up on the morrow and marched to the tower of Portland, about five miles from Newcastle, which they took and burned. On the third day they invested the tower of Otterburn in Redesdale, about thirty miles from Newcastle, Douglas being in no hurry to go home so long as there was a chance of a *mellay* with Hotspur Percy. He knew his man too well to believe that he could resist the temptation to recover the lost pennon.

Douglas chose his camp, with an eye to attack from archery, in a wood, preferring it to a far stronger position

¹ Froissart says "the tower of my castle at Dalkeith," thinking that it still belonged to the Earl of Douglas; but, as we know, Dalkeith was the heritage of the Lothian branch of Douglas (see p. 87, *ante*).

near at hand, the old Roman station of Bremenium, where the ground was bare. Hotspur was too good a soldier to risk his men unnecessarily. Aware of the presence in England of the other and stronger Scottish column under the Earl of Fife, he did not start in pursuit of Douglas until he received reports from reconnoitring parties. Having ascertained that the country towards Carlisle was clear of the enemy, he marched from Newcastle with 600 spears and 8000 foot, and drove in Douglas's picquets late in the evening.¹

Battle of
Otterburn,
12th [?]
August 1388.

The Scots were surprised supping, being fatigued after a long day's work against the tower of Otterburn. Luckily the camp was entrenched, and the English first attacked the servants' quarters, which lay outside the main enclosure and on lower ground, thus giving the Scots time to stand to arms. While Percy was busy overpowering resistance in what seemed to him in the dusk to be Douglas's camp, a body of Scots moved unperceived through the wood and fell upon the enemy's flank. A fierce conflict followed; the banners of Douglas and Percy met, not for the first time, nor yet the last; the men under each were of the breed that fought as long as shaft and blade held good; and were accustomed, as victors, "to ransom their prisoners instantly,

¹ There is much uncertainty about dates. Douglas is said to have lain four days at Otterburn waiting for the enemy. Froissart gives 15th August as the date of the battle; most English and Scottish writers give St. Oswald's Day, the 5th. White, in his *History of the Battle of Otterburn*, lays stress on the statement of Froissart and others that it was a moonlit night; new moon fell on the 6th in that month. Tradition has it that the battle was fought on a Wednesday, so Mr. White considers Wednesday, 19th, as the true date. But this, Sir William Fraser points out, does not accord with a certain transaction in the Scottish Council at Linlithgow on Tuesday, 18th, whereby the people of North Berwick were directed to obey the Earl of Fife, and the Constable of Tantallon Castle was ordered to render up that fortress to him in lieu of the late James, Earl of Douglas,* who had held it in tenantry of the Earl of Fife. If the date of the Council is correctly given, Fraser considered Wednesday, 12th August, as the true date of the battle, which agrees with the state of moon indicated by Froissart, bright in the earlier, dark in the later part of the short night. Froissart seems the best authority on the details of this battle, for he got all particulars from two French knights who fought on the English side.

* *Acts of Parl. Scot.*, i. 191.

OTTERBURN

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and in such courteous manner to the vanquished that these return them thanks before taking their departure."¹ The English were as three to one, and Percy came near wiping out the affront put on his arms by taking the banner of Douglas, which was only saved by the devoted gallantry of Sir Patrick Hepburn and his son.

The Scots were giving way under pressure of numbers when Douglas thrust forward where the conflict was fiercest, and hewed his way into the midst of the English ranks. But his armour had been hastily put on, it was not rightly braced; in the dim light he could deliver, but not parry blows; suddenly he went down with three spears in shoulder, belly, and thigh, and as he fell a battle-axe gashed his skull.

Still the combat went on in the light of the summer moon; "Percy! Percy!" echoed across the dusky moor, and "Douglas! Douglas!" rang through the woods, with clash of steel and hard breathing of men. Sir Ralph Percy, emulating the prowess of Douglas, pressed too far forward, was surrounded, and fell grievously wounded before Sir John Maxwell of Pollok, who fought in Moray's wing. Maxwell gave him over to Moray, who exclaimed: "Well hast thou won thy spurs this night, Maxwell!" To follow the fortunes of the various chevaliers through this fight one must turn to the glowing page of Froissart, where are full details of what the chronicler declared to be the best fought and most severe of all the many battles it had been his delight to describe. It ended in a complete victory for the Scots; the strength of the English failed them, being overtaxed with a forced march, and they were driven far beyond the place where Douglas had fallen. Both the Percys were prisoners;² Sir Matthew Redman, Governor of Berwick, was

¹ Froissart, iii. c. 126.

² Hotspur was taken by John, Lord Montgomery, according to some authorities; by Sir Hew Montgomery, according to others, and was held to ransom for £3000, towards which the King and Council of England contributed £1000 (*Issue Rolls*, Easter 1389, and Michaelmas 1390). Walsingham assigns the capture of Hotspur to the Earl of March, who, he says, came up during the combat, but he probably confounded him with the Earl of Moray.

run down in a long chase and taken by Sir James Lindsay. The Bishop of Durham, hurrying up with reinforcements from Newcastle, met the stream of fugitives, and among them was lucky enough to secure the person of Lindsay himself. Froissart puts the English loss at nearly 3000 killed, wounded, and prisoners, while the Scots counted only some 300 casualties of all kinds.

The business of this narrative lies only with what concerns Douglas: copious and touching are the versions of his last hour. Out upon the sceptic hand that should wipe them from the record!—Woe to the inquisitive eye that shall pry too closely! Yet does Wyntoun declare that the fate of Douglas was unknown in the Scottish army till his body was found among the slain next morning.

Death of the
Earl of
Douglas.

Probably he died at once, so terrible were the wounds he had received; but the veil of night concealed from both sides the loss that had befallen the Scots, which, had it been bruited, might well have turned the fortune of the fray. It is true that Froissart reports long speeches made by the expiring hero; it is true that among all our Scottish ballads there is none more tender than that in which these dying words are embalmed; but poets (and Froissart was poet as well as chronicler) will never suffer heroes to die mute like foxes. Nor can we ever afford to part with these beautiful lines, albeit they may enshrine nothing more solid than a myth. Where would the human story rank without its myths?—

“ ‘ My nephew good,’ the Douglas said,
‘ What recks the death of ane?—
Last night I dreamed a dreary dream,
And I ken the day’s thine ain.

Last night I dreamed a dreary dream,
Beyond the Isle of Sky
I saw a dead man win a field,
And I wot that man was I.

My wound is deep, I fain would sleep;
Take thou the vanguard of the three,
And bury me by the bracken bush
That grows on yonder lily lea.

DEATH OF DOUGLAS

III

Oh, bury me by the bracken bush
Beside the blooming brier,
And never let living mortal ken
That e'er a kindly Scot lies here.'

He lifted up that noble lord
Wi' the saut tear in his ee ;
He hid him in the bracken bush,
That his merrie men might not see.

The moon was clear, the day drew near,
The spears in flinders flew,
But mony a gallant Englishman
Ere day the Scotsmen slew."

Some may trace in these lines the touch of a vanished hand — of a hand later in time than the original bard, and in truth they are associated with the last scenes in a life as deeply endeared to his countrymen as any Douglas of them all. When, broken in fortune and shattered in health, Sir Walter Scott travelled with Lockhart to visit Douglas Castle, the scene of his last romance, *Castle Dangerous*, we are told that he stood silent, viewing the green vale and rolling moors, gleamless under a thunderous summer sky, peopled for him with thick-coming memories. Silent for a space, while the tears gathered under his aged lids; then, striking his stick in the sod, he repeated in broken accents the verses quoted above. Coldly critical must he be who blushes to believe what Scott held so dear. It will be a dismal day for Britain when her boys shall be reared without implicit faith in the ballad of *Otterburn*, and its English counterpart, *Chevy Chase*.

Earl James's widow, Princess Isabel, richly dowered with one terce of her lord's wide lands in the sheriffdom of Selkirk,¹ besides revenue from his other possessions, soon found another mate in the person of Sir John de Edmonstone.² She died about 1410.³ The only son she had by Douglas died in infancy; but Douglas left two illegitimate sons, William, progenitor of the family of Douglas of

¹ *Liber de Calchou*, ii. 408.

² Ancestor of the Edmonstones of Duntreath.

³ *Exchequer Rolls*, iv. 120.

Drumlanrig, Duke of Queensberry; and Archibald, ancestor of Douglas of Cavers. Earl James also left an illegitimate daughter, Eleanor, who married Sir William Fraser of Philorth, ancestor of the present Lord Saltoun. Isabel, Countess of Mar, behaved handsomely to her husband's bastards, for upon Archibald she bestowed the lands of Cavers. Robert III. gave them in 1405 to Sir David Fleming of Biggar, by reason that Countess Isabel had alienated them without his consent;¹ but in 1412 James I., a prisoner in England, confirmed Isabel's charter to Archibald, whose descendants own the lands to this day.² Upon Eleanor, Countess Isabel bestowed Tibbertie and Utlaw in Banffshire.

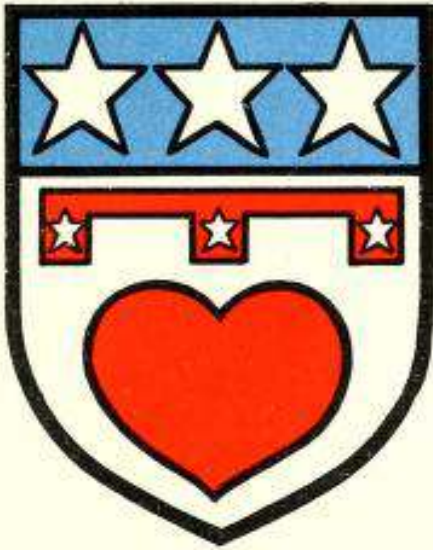
Earl James cannot have been more than thirty when he fell. He was buried in Melrose, but his tomb and the banner in defence of which he died, which the mourners hung over the tomb, have both disappeared.³

It is not possible to dismiss the record of this most gallant earl without a sigh for the life so full of promise, cut short in the flower of age and in so bootless a quarrel; but in truth it was not by earls and knights that the full misery of this picturesque warfare was endured. The fray of Otterburn was bloody and fierce enough, God wot! but not more bloody and fierce than a hundred others waged between men of common speech and kin, whereof the memories have clean passed away. What was there to

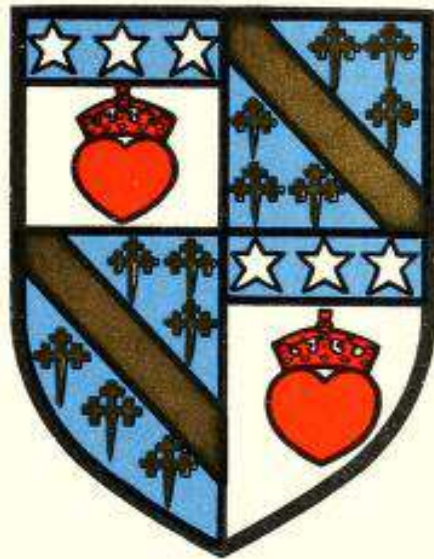
¹ Original charter at Cavers, reported by Sir William Fraser, i. 320.

² Copy charter at Cavers, reported by Sir William Fraser, i. 320.

³ The following memorandum by the Bishop of Dromore is preserved among the Duke of Northumberland's MSS. at Syon House: "The family of Douglas of Cavers, hereditary sheriffs of Teviotdale, have long had in their possession an old standard, which they believe to be the very pennon won from Hotspur by the Earl of Douglas, to whom their ancestor was standard-bearer in the expedition. On September 7, 1774, I was at Cavers and was shown the old standard." But Bishop Percy considered this relic to be no more than a Douglas standard, as it bore the arms of Douglas and their motto, *Jamais arrièrè*. A white lion, which it was suggested was the arms of Percy, was more probably that of the lordship of Galloway, pointing to a later date than 1388, or to a different Douglas. The lion of the Percys has always been azure. Another reputed relic of Otterburn preserved at Cavers is an embroidered glove with the initials *R. P.*, said to be spoil from the Percy.



John Douglas of Bonjedward, 1450.



William Douglas of Drumlanrig, 1412.



Archibald Douglas of Cavers, 1412.



*William Douglas of Whittinghame,
1567.*

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raise Otterburn to immortality? what but the fate of the two leaders—the death of Douglas and capture of Percy? Of which fact, unless one grasp the significance, he shall never discern through the glamour of romance—splendour of heraldry, dauntless feats of arms, chivalrous daring, and all the rest of it—the real cruelty of the business. Before gunpowder had affected the whole system of tactics, the farmers and peasants who followed their lords to the field counted as no more than material of war. The object was to kill as many of them as possible, prisoners being both costly and troublesome to keep.

Far different the barons, knights, and esquires: they rode into action with charmed lives; it was only in exceptional disasters, like Bannockburn on the one side and Flodden on the other, that any large number were slain. Every precaution was observed to take these gentlemen of coat-armour alive for the sake of their ransom. A baron's farms might be burned and the live stock driven off; his ruined tenants might afford him no rent; let him but have the luck to capture some well-to-do opponent and the balance would be handsomely in his favour. So the warfare of feudal lords was the finest of gambling, with all the excitement of high play *plus* military glory. Gunpowder, which that experienced chevalier, Gautier de Cariel, considered such a devilish invention that he counselled his comrades, "as often as it should be thrown, to prostrate themselves on their elbows and knees, and beseech the Lord Jesus to deliver them from that evil, from which He alone could protect them,"—gunpowder, I say, which at first promised to intensify the horrors of war, was really a merciful invention; it not only rendered battles less bloody, but it cured barons of their passion for them, inasmuch as a bullet is as likely to find its billet in the carcase of a noble as in that of a churl.

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