

THE

BLUE LION



VOL. 17 ISSUE 1

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL, INC.

FEBRUARY 2011

Plans for an Outstanding 2011

As the Family of Bruce International Officers and Board of Directors strategize and plan for events in 2011, emphasis is on our newly defined Mission Statement which was approved at the October 2010 Annual General Meeting. It reads,

"To promote, honor, and preserve our Scottish and Bruce heritage by sponsoring activities, events, scholarships, and continual communication through the newsletter and website. We will therefore, provide educational information, tributes to our history and ancestors, and thereby attract Bruces and Septs into the enjoyment and celebration of our familial relationships."

In following our mission guidelines, four new Scottish games are scheduled this year, an expansion of scholarships, ongoing series of articles in the newsletter on topics such as Heraldry, travel, individual and family recognition! The newsletter has also been increased to four times a year and the November issue contains a list of members for the respective year!

Ongoing member input and contributions have facilitated the ability to make these expansions. Thank you to all members for your continued support and input. The newsletter has published wonderful stories that have been passed down through families. Please keep these stories going as they are part of our heritage and connection to each other. All input can be sent to the Editor. See page 15 for contact information.

The expansion of our participation in Scottish Games is truly exciting. For those that do attend the games, please stop by the Bruce tent or let us know if you think a Bruce tent should be there. Your presence is always very welcomed! Information and training can be made available to anyone who has an interest in hosting a tent and we always need backup in case of an unplanned event or emergency.

You will notice more and more colorful flags and banners at Scottish games, and the Heraldry articles are written to provide a source of information for their history and accurate use. They are a great source of information for those who watch historical movies depicting medieval times. You will even begin to notice the correct and incorrect uses of flying heraldry!

*"So long as we love, we serve;
so long as we are loved by others, I should say that we are almost indispensable;
and no man is useless while he has a friend." ... Robert Louis Stevenson*



DEAR FAMILY —

By the time you read this, many of us in our home communities will have attended and participated in a "Burn's Night Supper", once again commemorating the birth and life of this Scottish bard. Phyllis and I were at the supper held by the Twin Cities Scottish Club where we were entertained by the Macalester College Pipe Band, the Hart School of Highland Dance, and very much more. Meanwhile, VP Don and Kathy were at the supper sponsored by our local chapter of the St. Andrew Society. We had our bases covered. If for some reason you have never been at a Burn's Night Supper and listened as his "Ode To The Haggis" is recited and the ceremony performed, you are missing a very tasty bit of Scottish heritage. Be sure to attend your local event in 2012.

I am sure you have already noticed the photo below of me and our two Shetland Sheep Dogs. Yes, we added another in November, through the good offices of Minnesota Sheltie Rescue, when two year old Ceilidh (pronounced KayLee as I am sure you know) joined big brother Robby as part of our family. Her formal name is "The Bruce's Ceilidh Dancer" and she is quite a little beauty, despite a bit of a rough start in life. In May of this year, for the third year in a row, Minnesota Sheltie Rescue will be joining us at the Minnesota Scottish Fair. I understand that there will be Collies and Cairn Terriers there as well. The Scottish breed dogs are always a big draw. You are all invited to join us at the Minnesota Scottish Fair, this year on Saturday, May 14th. We have a delightful time and the Bruce's are out in force.

Your FOBII board has been hard at work since our AGM at Stone Mountain in October. You will be pleased to know that we have begun the process of safely archiving our corporate records. The first steps are being taken to electronically preserve every issue of the BLUE LION published since the incorporation of the new organization, along with complete and detailed membership lists for each year. Other materials will be added as time passes. We hope to eventually accomplish the electronic preservation of what records we have from the previous organizations. If you should be in possession of any of those records or know where they might be, please

inform any board member at your first opportunity. As a service to our membership, we intend to publish a list of Scottish oriented businesses where members can find all of what they need to fit out their "Scottish Kit". The initial list will likely include four businesses in Scotland and five here in the United States. There are other opportunities in the works which will be announced in the coming months which we hope will make your FOBII membership more valuable than ever.

One of the strengths of our organization is the large number of life memberships which we have. It speaks highly of the value so many place on their membership. For those of you who are annual members, we value your membership greatly as well, and invite you to consider life membership. Please contact our national secretary, Polly Bruce Tilford, to move to "life" level when you get your renewal reminder.

Yours aye, William

William Bruce
with
Robby and Ceilidh



William and Phyllis
with granddaughter
Rhiannon, daughter-
in-law Julianne, and
son Mark attend the
Twin Cities Scottish
Club Burns Supper



Scottish Events for the Family of Bruce International for 2011

An "xx" indicates the 2011 date is not announced as of this time. Additional information to be updated in May.

CALIFORNIA – Roger Kelly

TO BE DETERMINED – Roger is recuperating well but we are still looking for help in 2011. Please contact Deb Bruce Gottlieb if interested!

COLORADO – Richard Bruce & Seth Bruce

August xx – Colorado Scottish Festival and Rocky Mountain Highland Games – Highlands Ranch
www.scottishgames.org

September 8-11 – Longs Peak Scottish/Irish Highland Festival – Estes Park www.scotfest.com

GEORGIA – Deb Bruce Gottlieb & Steve Bruce

June 11-12 – Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games – Blairsville - www.blairsvillescottishfestival.org

October 21-23 – Stone Mountain Highland Games
www.smhg.org – Annual Meeting – 1pm and Annual Dinner at 6pm on Saturday!!

INDIANA – Polly Tilford

September 10-11 – Columbus Highland Games, Columbus www.scottishfestival.org

IOWA – William Bruce

September xx – Scottish Games of the Quad Cities, Davenport
www.celtichighlandgames.org/index.htm

KENTUCKY – Polly Tilford

June 2-5 Glasgow Highland Games, Glasgow
www.glasgowhighlandgames.com

MAINE – Charles F. Bruce III

August xx Maine Highland Games, Brunswick
www.mainehighlandgames.org

MICHIGAN – Polly Tilford

August 27 – Kalamazoo Scottish Festival
www.kalamazooscottishfestival.org/

MINNESOTA – William Bruce & Don Bruce

May 14 – Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games, Eagan www.mnscottishfair.org

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Charles F. Bruce III *TENTATIVE* –

September 16-18 – New Hampshire Highland Games, Loon Mountain, Lincoln www.nhscot.org/

NEW YORK – Nick Carrado and Ann E. Eldred

August xx – Central New York Scottish Games
<http://www.cnyscots.com/games.html>

NORTH CAROLINA – Deb Bruce Gottlieb & Steve Bruce

July 7-10 – Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville www.gmhg.org

OKLAHOMA – MarLo Alexander

September xx – Oklahoma Scottish Games & Gathering, Tulsa www.tulsascottishgames.org

OHIO – Kenneth Swank

June xx – Ohio Scottish Games
www.ohioscottishgames.com

SOUTH CAROLINA –

May 27-28 – Greenville Scottish Games, Furman University, Greenville www.greenvillegames.org

September xx – Charleston Scottish Games & Highland Gathering, Charleston, SC www.charlestonscots.org

SOUTH DAKOTA – William Bruce & Don Bruce

September 17-18 – North East South Dakota Celtic Faire & Games, Aberdeen, South Dakota
www.nesdcelticfaire.com/

TENNESSEE – Arline Guyton

May 20-22 – Smokey Mountain Highland Games (formerly the Gatlinburg Scottish Festival & Games) Maryvale College, Maryvale, TN
www.smokymountaingames.org

TEXAS – Vizi Lange Caldwell

November 11-13 – Salado Scottish Gathering and Highland Games, Salado, Texas
<http://www.ctam-salado.org/Gathering/Gathering.htm>
Note: Houston Scottish Games will not be held in 2011.

New location

NEW

VIRGINIA – Gerald Cousins & family

April 9 – 5th Annual Scots Irish Festival – Lexington
www.lexcelts.com/

NEW

October 1 – Williamsburg Scottish Festival –
<http://www.wsfonline.org/>

October 29-30 – Meadow Highland Games and Celtic Festival – Doswell, VA www.meadowceltic.com
Formerly Richmond Highland Games

WASHINGTON – Susan Walker

July 30-31 – 64th Annual Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering, Enumclaw –
<http://www.sshga.org/home.htm>

WISCONSIN – Andy Mace & family

September xx – Wisconsin Scottish Fair, (Waukesha Expo Center – Waukesha, Wisconsin)
www.wisconsinscottish.org/

NEW

NEW

YOUR INPUT WANTED!!!!

Your input is needed to evaluate games. If you attend games in your area and think the Family of Bruce International should be represented, please send your input to Deb Bruce Gottlieb, 1495 Jones Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075 or to deb@familyofbruce.org.



Flying Heraldry

By Thomas Allen Bruce, CStJ, FSA Scot

Heraldry from earliest times has been associated with identification, including identification of friend or foe on a battlefield, as well as with authentication of documents. Heraldry uses colorful and easily remembered symbols so that even people unable to read can identify persons who display those symbols.

"Flying heraldry" is the term for flags that employ armorial symbology. Flying heraldry may well be the earliest use of armorial bearings. In this article we will briefly look at the several kinds of flying heraldry that are in use in Scottish Heraldry today.

The edge or area of a flag nearest the flagpole is called the "hoist." The part furthest away from the flagpole, that is, the opposite end of the flag from the hoist, is the "fly."

THE BANNER

A square or rectangular flag depicting the designs on the shield of an Achievement of Arms and nothing else is known as a "banner." The banner is today the most commonly seen armorial flag, and is available to every armiger, but in ancient times the banner was reserved for persons of very high rank.

Banners may be any size from six inches square for a table decoration to 25 feet square or more for flying from a high tower or the ramparts of a large castle. Specific sizes of banner may be set down according to their owner's rank for a parade at a specific event. In general, a parade banner will be four feet square or less, because larger sizes are unwieldy. At a large Scottish Games or gatherings many banners will be seen in the opening parade.

Often a banner is slightly higher than it is wide. This shape works out to display most armorial bearings to their best effect. Most banners meant for flying over a house will be square.

The banner indicates the personal presence of its owner. At gatherings the banner of the honored guest is raised as soon as he or she arrives on the field, and is lowered when he or she leaves. A smaller parade banner will be carried either by the owner or by an appointed banner bearer in parades and with the armiger when he or she goes on a "walkabout."

On the medieval battlefield, the banner of the leader was kept covered until the beginning of a battle. As soon as it was unfurled the attack began. The banner was closely guarded against capture by

the enemy, just as the colors of a regiment are today.

A type of banner known as a "livery banner" is often used as an inexpensive way to marshal an armorially based display. The livery banner is a flag made up of the main metal and the main color of the Arms, with the color running in a stripe from the hoist to the fly, along with a stripe of the same width of the metal. Livery banners may be swallow-tailed.

The familiar "red lion rampant within a double tressure flory counter flory" flag, often called the lion rampant flag, is the banner of the Monarch of Scotland. As with all other banners it traditionally indicates the personal presence of the Sovereign, and should not be flown in her absence.



The Lion Rampant Banner is the banner of the Monarch of Scotland and is also referred to as the Queen's Banner

PINSELS, PENNONS, GUIDONS, AND STANDARDS

The banner and the livery banner may be used by any armiger. The other flying heraldry, including pinsels, pennons, guidons, and standards, require specific authorization from Lyon Court.

The Pinsel

This flag is authorized for Clan Chiefs and certain other dignitaries to be used by their appointed representatives in the absence of the Chief or dignitary. The name is obviously a Scottish version of the medieval "pennoncel." The flags are triangular, and depict the Chief's Crest Badge, plant badge, and motto.



Pinsel of the Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin and Kincardine. Blue Lion Crest, Fuihus motto, and Rosemary plant badge

The Pennon

The pennon, along with the guidon and standard, at one time indicated a "following," and was used in a military setting. Landowners in Scotland were required by law to possess armorial bearings, and the militia of Scotland in early days came to be made up of the tenants and neighbors of landowners, who are known as their "following."

The original pennon was a very small triangular flag flown from the lance of a knight, of whom it became the main flag, since a simple knight was not



usually considered of high enough rank to use a banner. The pennon evolved to indicate a following, and not necessarily knightly status, then during the reign of Lord Lyon Robin Blair, the pennon came to be authorized for any armiger who applied for it.

Today's pennon is a long narrow flag four feet long, with the arms of its owner in the hoist, and the livery colors in the fly, with the owner's motto running down the length of the livery colors. The pennon may be triangular in shape, or may have a more rounded end, as its owner chooses.

The Guidon

A guidon is assigned by Lyon Court to any armiger qualified for supporters, and for non-baronial lairds who have a following. The guidon is a long narrow flag eight feet long, and will include the armiger's crest and motto, as well as any badge the armiger may possess, especially if the badge is related to a particular land holding, as almost all badges in Scotland are. The guidon is rounded in the fly.

The Standard

The standard is the greatest of all flying heraldry, both in terms of their size, which varies according to rank, as well as in terms of the importance of their owners. Standards vary in size from 4 yards long for a knight to 8 yards long for the Monarch. Standards are reserved for the Chiefs of the greatest of Scottish clans and families, as well as for important dignitaries.



The Standard of the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine which depicts the Arms, the Crest twice, and the Motto "Fuimus"

Standards originally had the Saltire in the hoist, so that when they were flown in a tournament or on a battlefield the nationality of their owner would be immediately apparent, but today's standards usually have the owner's arms in the hoist, with the owner's crest and any badges in the fly, and with the owner's motto on transverse bands between the other figures. Standards today are usually hung with the hoist at the top and the fly hanging downwards; obviously it would take a large flagpole and high winds to make such a large flag fly smartly. A standard may sometimes also be carried horizontally in front of a procession of a Chief's clan or family in a

parade. Standards usually have rounded swallow-tail flies.

Banners, especially the Queen's banner, are today often called "standards." This usage is technically incorrect, though it is explained by naval terminology, which calls any flag used for personal or national identification by that term.

Today's pennons, guidons, and standards are all designed along the same lines, but long ago, before heraldry came to be regulated, the designs of these flags were much more fanciful. A few of these old designs still exist. One of the most famous is the "Bellendaine Standard," which is the personal standard of the Duke of Buccleuch, Chief of the Scotts. It is unusual in several ways. Despite being called a "standard," it is approximately eight feet long, the size of a guidon. One of today's conventions on all armorial flags is that animals and other figures face the hoist, and wording reads from the hoist to the fly, but on the Bellendaine Standard, while the figure of a stag (one of the Duke's crests) does face the hoist, the words run from the fly to the hoist. The Bellendaine Standard has been in use since before the days of Lyon Court, and, since it predates the law, it is grandfathered, and still in use today.

It is not uncommon for the terms "pennon, guidon, and standard" to be used interchangeably, especially in early chronicles. It's often impossible to tell precisely which is meant, and, indeed, smaller flags were often known as standards, and larger ones as pennons, long ago. The main thing that these three have in common is that all were originally used as "headquarters" flags, or in military settings, and all three are long and narrow in shape.

It's not uncommon to see armorial flags misused in several ways at Scottish Games in the U.S. For example, besides the relentless misuse of the Queen's banner, I have several times seen the banners of Chiefs flown at games in their absence. Though we have no regulation of heraldry in the United States, it is common courtesy to refrain from using the armorial bearings of another. It is also a misuse and insult to heraldry to use it incorrectly. If you are going to do something, do it right!

Gayre of Gayre and Nigg, Lt. Col. Robert. Heraldic Standards and Other Ensigns. Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd, 1959.

Innes of Learney, Sir Thomas. Scots Heraldry. First Pub. Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd, 1934; Revised Ed. Edinburgh and London: Johnston and Bacon, 1978.



A BRUCE WINTER WEDDING

By Don Bruce

Champagne corks popping! The Times Square ball dropping! Auld Lang Syne being sung! A New Year rung in! These are some of the things that make New Year's Eve special for all of us. The celebration is also special in Scotland, where Hogmanay is one of the biggest events of the entire year. For our family, December 31, 2010 now has an even more special meaning because our son Andy was married to Stephanie that day, and we got to welcome her into the family on a very special night. They (and especially Steph) have been planning this wedding for over a year, and they did not let a little thing like a Minnesota winter stand in their way.

The evening of December 31, 2010 brought a little ice storm to Minnesota, but the wedding happened, almost everyone made it and it was a grand night. Fortunately, the ceremony and the reception were all at one location, so once guests arrived they were out of the weather. The ceremony was light-hearted but serious, and included a "sand ceremony", in which Andy, Stephanie, and Andy's son Hayden all poured their own colored sand into a heart shaped glass, signifying the forming of one family from three individuals. Our older son Charley, home from Seattle for the event, was his brother's best man.

After the marriage ceremony, the reception commenced with a great dinner and dancing. During the dinner, William Bruce, our president, and I had a ceremony welcoming Stephanie to our Bruce family, with William welcoming her, on behalf of the Chief and our organization, into the Family of Bruce. While William spoke, I placed a Bruce tartan sash on each of them, which they wore proudly the rest of the night. Kathy and I are so happy to welcome Stephanie Bruce into our family and are so proud of our son for his choice of a bride. She is beautiful, bubbly, bright, and full of life! Those of you who have met them at the last 2 AGMs at Stone Mountain can attest to that. We love her (and our son) dearly and we are so glad she is part of our family, and the larger Family of Bruce. The couple spent their Honeymoon in Orlando (Disney World!) and are now living in their townhome in Oakdale MN.



FOBI Member Andy Bruce with his beautiful bride, Stephanie Bruce celebrating their New Year's Eve Wedding

Stephanie and Andy complete their wedding attire with their Bruce tartan sashes



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Bruce!!

Introducing Miss Charlotte Elizabeth Bruce



Thomas Allen and Jennifer Bruce announce the birth of their daughter Charlotte Elizabeth Bruce on January 19, 2011. Charlotte weighed 7 pounds 11.5 ounces and measured 19.5 inches.

The family is doing well with this blessed bundle of joy!!!



The Stone of Destiny.

**A fun movie about a piece of Scots history
Don Bruce, FSA Scot**

The Stone of Destiny is, of course, the Stone of Scone, the great stone upon which the Scottish kings sat when they were being crowned. King Edward I seized it in 1296 and took it off to London, where it was placed under the throne in Westminster Abbey, to signify that the King of England was also the King of Scots. In 2008, *The Stone of Destiny* also became a movie. It did not attain wide release and is not very well known. But it is now available on Netflix, and is also available for purchase through Amazon at a price not too much greater than a rental. It is worth the small price for some good fun!

The movie is about the successful plot by several students from Glasgow, executed on Christmas Eve 1950, to steal the stone from Westminster and return it to its rightful home in Scotland. It stars several actors of note, including Billy Boyd (Pippin in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy), Robert Carlyle (*Hamish MacBeth* and *The Full Monty*), Kate Mara, and Charlie Cox as the ringleader, Ian Hamilton. The film is directed by Charles Martin Smith, the American actor best known for his performances in *American Graffiti* and *Never Cry Wolf*.

The movie follows the hatching of the plot, the forming of the group that will carry it out, and the theft itself, along with the return of the stone to Scotland. It ends with the group being arrested and the stone being returned to England. It was filmed in Scotland, England, and Canada, with scenes in Westminster, and many recognizable landmarks in Scotland, including Arbroath Abbey and the Glenfinnan train viaduct.

The movie starts in Glasgow where young Ian Hamilton becomes enamored of the idea of stealing the Stone as a show of Scottish national spirit. He is at first put off by John MacCormick (Carlyle), rector of Glasgow University, but later encouraged by him. From there he recruits his group of ragtag thieves: Kay (Mara), the beautiful redhead with a strong Nationalist spirit; Gavin (Stephen McCole), the big drunk brought in for his muscle; and Alan Stuart (Ciaran Kelly), the quiet, young, studious, last minute addition, who is the rare freshman who owns a car.

They set off for London, where they run into problems with their first attempt. They regroup, but Kay gets sick and they must regroup again. Finally, the plan of action comes together and they are successful, but the film makes their efforts quite humorous and looking like they will fail at any moment. But, somehow they succeed and leave

London with the stone, now in two pieces, and return it to Scotland. News of the theft is greeted with street celebrations in Scotland and reawakens dormant Scottish pride. The thieves "hide" the stone in a field on their way back and when they go to retrieve it, more humorous problems occur. They finally get the stone put back together and decide to give it back. The stone is brought to Arbroath, where the group is arrested, but never prosecuted. The movie ends by explaining that the Stone was returned to Scotland by England in 1996, but is only on loan and must be returned for the next coronation. Of course, it can now be seen at Edinburgh Castle.

The movie, like most films based on historical events, is not 100% accurate. The exact timing of all the events is not clear, and license is taken with what actually happened to the Stone after they took it. But, despite that, it is an enjoyable depiction of what must have been a bumbling theft of a precious relic by a bunch of young, energetic and inspired students who were clearly not very good thieves.

The film is done with a charming, humorous touch, and really has the feel of mid-20th century Scotland and England. What is really amazing is the depiction of security in 1950 and how different things are in 2011. You can be assured that no one would be able to get anywhere near the Stone now if theft was attempted.

Proposed Movie About King Robert Needs Your Help

**By Charles Randolph Bruce & Carolyn Hale
Bruce Authors of the *Rebel King*
Series of books about King Robert**

As many of you may know, we are out to make a movie based on the reign of Robert I, King of Scots, a.k.a. The Bruce. With the efforts of our readers, friends and associates, we are making progress, but we believe your support for the idea of making this movie will certainly give us additional strength.

If you like the idea (and what Bruce wouldn't) we ask that you email or otherwise write to us and say so. Any further comment you might like to make in that regard would be welcome, too. We will then publish these statements on the website <http://thebrus.com>

To be King Robert's champion, just send your email to crb@rebelking.com and tell us. Or write to us at PO Box 64007, Virginia Beach, VA 23467-4007. We'll post it on the site. If you prefer to remain anonymous tell us and we'll withhold your name etc.



The Gottliebs Travel to Scotland

By Deborah Bruce Gottlieb, FSA Scot

My husband Ben and I had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Scotland for nine days in September 2010. We were lucky to experience incredible weather with moderate temperatures in the 60's and blue skies most of the time. Yes, we did rent a car and drove on the left side. You have to remember when you drive in the UK that "*left is right and right is wrong*".

Carlisle was our first stop after landing in Manchester, England. We visited Carlisle Castle, the location of so much history between the Scots and the English. After a good night's sleep, we headed to Annan, a short drive over the border into Scotland. There is much Bruce history here and we saw the recently installed statue of Robert the Bruce at the town hall for which FOBI donated funds in 2009. We then rendezvoused with some friends in the quaint village of Kirkcudbright (pronounced kirk-coo-bree) in southern Scotland at the mouth of the River Dee near the coast. We stayed at the Selkirk Inn which was built in the 1700s and where Robert Burns was said to have stayed in Room 1!! It is also *alleged* that he wrote the famous Selkirk Grace at this hotel. Well, believe all of this or not, it was an enjoyable stay. It was special to have a wee dram and make a toast to the Bard in the Burns Sitting Room.

After eating an excellent Scottish breakfast and saying goodbye to our friends, we headed north to visit St Andrews in the Kingdom of Fife. St Andrews today is most famously known as the "Home of Golf". Since Ben is a golfer, we spent several hours around the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. Many centuries before the game of golf was established, St Andrews was an important religious capital of Scotland. We visited the ruins of the St Andrews Cathedral and the older church of Saint Regulus (St. Rule) which are great monuments to that era of Scottish history. King Robert I attended the dedication of the Cathedral in 1318. A visit to St Andrews Castle was very interesting. Its tale will be related in a future article. Also of important note is the University of St Andrews which was established in the early 15th century and is the oldest university in Scotland. As you can see there is much to see and do in St Andrews and one needs more than a day to visit. From St Andrews, we took the scenic route along the coast and meandered along lovely winding roads. The village of Charlestown in Dunfermline was our base for the next couple of days.

Knowing that driving and finding parking in Edinburgh would be difficult, we decided to take the bus. This was my 4th visit to the city and Ben's first. Time constraints kept us in the Olde Town visiting the Castle and walking down the Royal Mile. In the Castle, I revisited the War Memorial where the names of my grandfather's brother, Hugh Bruce, and my grandmother's brother, William Trimble are listed in their hallowed books. They both died in France fighting in WWI. Visiting this memorial was my way of paying my respects to them and thanking them for their service to their country and the world.

Our visit with Lord and Lady Elgin in their home at Broomhall was exceptional and we were honored to meet with them. We reflected on the 700th Celebration in 2006 and how the event exceeded all our expectations. We also talked about the 700th Anniversary of Bannockburn in 2014. It was amazing to discuss the Bannockburn Battle and other historical times with Lord Elgin, and to get a true historical perspective from one who has studied and focused on the correct historical significances of these events. I learned that part of the strategy of putting King Edward's army in the exact position King Robert wanted was the fact that the men and their horses would be thirsty after such a long journey. The English camped on the banks of the Bannock Burn (burn in Scots is for stream) at the exact place where King Robert "influenced" them to go. At that spot they didn't have room to maneuver their horses and pick up speed at the commencement of the battle. Of course there were many more strategic moves in the battle, but this was one little known fact that set the stage.

After a visit to the Bannockburn battle field, we visited with Charles, Lord Bruce in the afternoon. Again we were quite honored to visit with him and discussed Scottish and American history, architecture and other topics. We visited nearby Culross Abbey where Benedict, Lord Bruce's youngest son, proudly gave us a very comprehensive tour of the Abbey. The main chapel was full of fragrant flowers and we visited the tombs of Sir George Bruce and his family which is in one section of the abbey.

This article can only give evidence to some of our experiences and I will save more for future articles. Our visit to the Robert the Bruce Heritage Centre in Renton, West Dunbartonshire is the first of those articles and is located on the next page of this newsletter.

Needless to say, our visit was magical. For those who have traveled to Scotland know, that no matter how long the visit, there is still so much more to see and experience on the next trip.



Visit to the Robert the Bruce Heritage Centre

By Deborah Bruce Gottlieb, FSA Scot

When my husband Ben and I visited Scotland, we scheduled a visit to the Robert the Bruce Heritage Centre in Renton, West Dunbartonshire. The Centre opened in March of 2010, and is run by the Strathleven Artizans. The May 2010 issue of the Blue Lion featured a story on the opening of the Centre.

As we arrived, we were warmly greeted by Duncan Thomson, dressed for battle in his chainmail regalia. Duncan is Chairman of the Strathleven Artizans and the inspiration behind the Centre. It was obvious they had prepared and were looking forward to our visit as much as we were looking forward to visiting them. We met Jim Tannock, Treasurer, and his wife Lynn; Paul Hunter who portrays King Robert I very effectively and his wife Susan; Jeanette Ryan who portrayed Robert I's wife Elizabeth; as well as Brenda Cameron and Elspeth Crocket who are key members of the group.

The Centre is a converted ScotRail station which was adopted and transformed by the organization into a remarkable exhibition to honor Robert the Bruce and his supporters. The Artizans volunteer at the Centre to host visitors and educate them about the life and times of our ancestors who dedicated their lives to free Scotland. The members also spend much of their time visiting schools, festivals, and other events to teach and commemorate the history of Robert the Bruce and his supporters.

As part of their generous hospitality, we were treated to delicious sandwiches, pastries, and tea!! As we were transferred back in time, the Artizans showed and told us of their achievements in the short time the Centre had been open. It was obvious to us that their spirit and love of history enabled them to realize all they had accomplished in the Centre.

The Centre contains many art and glass works, 14th century artifacts and memorabilia including battle weapons, armour, and much information. 14th Century Renton was formerly known as Cardross and is the area where Robert the Bruce settled in to raise his son David II and to rule the Kingdom. Please note the modern day Cardross is approximately 10 miles away on the west coast and is not the area King Robert lived. King Robert built a great Royal Manor House in an area called PillonFlatts at the east end of the current day Renton. A few years ago the area was excavated to build

some homes, and in doing so 14th Century ancient foundations were unearthed which may be the foundations of King Robert's buildings. Experts were brought in to authenticate the find and time was afforded to dig out the priceless "cement". Pieces of the foundation can be seen in a cabinet at the Centre along with many other artifacts of the time.

Another topic of interest is the Bruce Oak which was a sapling 700-1000 years ago on Bruce's Estate. It sadly fell after a fire in 2005; however, the Strathleven Artizans were able to recover the timber and they have made items from it that are available. They also plan on making a new throne at the Centre out of it! I do cherish my key chain and a carved oak acorn from the tree.

In addition to celebrating the life and achievements of King Robert, the Artizans participate in many activities to honor his closest knights and companions. Each year, the Strathleven Artizans travel to Teba, Spain for a festival to honor the Good Sir James Douglas. As many of you know, after King Robert's death, Sir James took his heart on a voyage to the Holy Land. However, he and a number of others were killed in Teba, Spain during a battle. King Robert's heart and the remains of Sir James were returned to Scotland for burial.

While celebrating the close relationships between the Scots and Americans, we focused on how King Robert and the kingdom of his time were influential on the future and on democracy. A book, "For Freedom Alone" by Edward J. Cowan (professor of Scottish History at the University of Glasgow) was shared with us. It is an excellent expose on the Declaration of Arbroath, and a chronological essay on the people and political events of the time. It is so interesting I have worn out the pages on my copy!

As we concluded our visit, we said goodbyes to our new friends with a response from them of "Haste Ye Back", and yes, we certainly look forward to coming back to the Centre and to the Renton area. It proved to be another day in our visit that we realized needed much more time to spend at the Centre and in the area that was the home of King Robert and his family after the wars and his gallant efforts to free his country.

I certainly recommend accessing their websites for much more information and visiting the Centre when in Scotland. You will find it to be a real treat!!

www.strathlevenartizans.com

www.robertthebruceheritagecentre.co.uk



Travel in a Scottish Blizzard

By Seth Bruce

My mother and I embark on a most glorious journey departing on Thanksgiving, 24 November, the day before America gives Thanks... To the Olde Country, Alba, Home of my Ancestors, where my heart is beckoned. Our tour is scheduled around the amazing town of Carluke in Lanarkshire, but various side routes destinations call...Unfortunately Mother Nature had other plans.

The first day we headed to Stirling where we stayed with friends, James and Ann Kirk, who run a most glorious B&B; Calsay House right at the foot of The Abbey Craig which lies under foot of The Wallace Monument. After about a 10 minute walk to the Birds and Bees pub and restaurant we dined and I drank whisky (thank you Gary!). We wandered back to the B&B, weary from the days (and nights) journey. Asleep by 5:30 UK time, we then arose at 1:30 to get cracking, but nothing and no one was out and about, but Mother Nature. So we slept more and then upon arising my mother woke on her glasses realizing she broke them we had to go to the local shopping center (The Thistle) to get them fixed. One pivotal experience was going to a record store and purchasing Big Country's: The Crossing! With moms glasses anew, we were excited to be able to go to Dumfermline and Limekilns to see Lord and Lady Elgin! So we head back to the Birds and Bees for some sustenance (and whisky) then back to the B&B only to watch the snow start to fall almost 2 months early....

Our next destination is to Edinburgh where we are to meet friends in the band Albannach. We were due to meet them at the Esplanade at Edinburgh Castle for the St. Andrews Parade. The lads and lass did not show on account of the weather (they were coming from Glasgow to the North and West). So we waited at the top of the Royal Mile... Then I noticed a young man dressed in medieval wear but most importantly I noticed the ink work on his arm, he bore the same symbol that I had on my cap, it was the band log of Albannach. So I called out to him just as he noticed my cover, he instantly introduced himself to me as Thomas. He said, "Stick close to me as Jamsie (the front man for the band) is my cousin. So we did. Then we started to march, the parade down "The Mile" was brilliant... countless people and numerous Saltires... Beautiful! So we marched down to the bottom of The Mile to the Parliament Building

where there were speakers talking of how amazing and prideful a country Scotland is and was! At the end that's when my mother said "we need to go!", and so we did to the Masonic Lodge Trafalgar on Leiths Walk where my mates honored a dear friend, David R. Ross.

The next day we arose to worsening weather conditions. So I called to the house of Lord Elgin and Lady Elgin answered and simply stated, "I do not want to put you and your mother's life in peril to come see us." I then rang our B&B in Balloch off the southern shores of Loch Lomond to say we weren't going to make it. They understood, on account of the roads not being well... So I phoned my friends Mary and Murdo Macleod down in Carluke, Lanarkshire to see if they had a room for the night, considering I would rather drive south than north... Mary said, "I canna put ya up for the night." My response was not a good one... and Mary said "I just had a cancellation you and your mum are welcome come on down!"

So for three days we hunkered down at The Wee Thackit where Mary and Dougie Arnott and their/my extended family showed great hospitality. For three days we/I had an amazing stay in Carluke. (If you want to know the amazing details email me at zombibrus@msn.com). The first full day we decided to pop up to Glasgow, (I am not going to lie, I'm not a big fan of that place) via train for shopping. My mother went crazy and bought loads of Elvis merchandise. We ate lunch at Maggie Mays' it was quite possibly the most "Americanized" pub I had been to in all of Scotland, good food though. Back "home" for dinner at the Kirkton (great pasta!) then to The Thackit to finish the night off. The last full day we took the train up to Hamilton for more shopping and I stopped off at a pub called The Manhattan for a pint. Then back on down to Carluke, we stopped in at The Crown Inn and Mom finally got the lamb she'd been craving and I kept to pub grub. We then went into the pub where the boys brought a guitar in and we played music and sang. It was a beautiful and merry last night.

The next day we rose to find more snow and to the news about the airports being closed and we decided to head back up to Edinburgh. This was the day we need to return the car, but couldn't do so. So we found our B&B Castle View, every room has a breathtaking view of the castle (especially with all the snow!). Checked in and drove to a park and pay, what a nightmare that was. With that all done we headed to The Albanach where I was introduced to The Chicken Balmoral a year earlier. We



wandered back to the B&B down the Princes Street Mall and the snow was falling and Christmas lights were up and rides for the kiddies were on, it was beautiful. The next day we headed back to the car and brought it back to the B&B where there were pay slots for cars (wishing we knew that the day before) parked then stopped into The Auld 100 for food. This being our last night we came to the B&B and mom didn't want to go very far to eat. To the left of where we were staying was a TGI Fridays and on the opposite side was a Starbucks.... Tragic. So we ate at TGI Fridays and when we were done, we walked across the street and bought a four pack of my favorite brew: Tennents Special Ale and paid homage to the beauty and nobility of the country. Hit the sack at about 10pm. We had to be at the airport at 4am.

I laughed and climbed out of the rack. Mom had called the airline to see if we were still a go, they confirmed the flight being on time. So we loaded the car and headed off, thankful to have a Tom-Tom. We arrived a little after four only to find that in fact our flight had been canceled. A little perturbed, we headed to Service Air to see what we could do about our current predicament. After about a two hour wait and friendly conversation we got redirected to a new airline that actually cut two stops and about two hours off our journey back to the states. Mom was very happy to get back. I was indifferent as I had left my heart in Scotland a year earlier only to feel the same way, but this time with a bigger emptiness and a greater affinity for my Bonnie Scotland.



Seth Bruce, Commissioner in Colorado

A Travelers Guide to Dining and Accommodations in Scotland:

By William P. Bruce, MA, FSA Scot

Copyright - August 2010

Scotland is not known for "haute cuisine". After all, the most famous, or possibly infamous, of traditional Scottish dishes was made from what was left of a sheep after the English had done with it. (For the uninitiated, I refer, of course, to haggis.) This is not to say that some seriously delicious food is not available. As to haggis, I have had some truly bad haggis served to me, and other which has been remarkably tasty. It seems to be one of those dishes which are either very bad or very good. I have had some truly wonderful meals during my Scottish travels, and they are not hard to find.

For these purposes, I am assuming that as an American traveler in Scotland, you are looking for advice that would provide you with traditional and high quality Scottish fare at modest prices, and keep you healthy and fit for travel. If my assumption is correct, the following should work well.

I am an advocate of the small independent bed and breakfast establishment. Virtually all of them serve some form of what is known as a "full Scottish breakfast" which is included in the price of your accommodation. Many will also serve sandwiches, soups, etc. at other times of the day and a few, full additional meals at added cost. Most of them have small dining rooms, which also serve as guest lounges later in the day. They are usually just big enough to accommodate a "full house". A typical "full Scottish breakfast" may include all or most of the following.

1. Eggs with bacon or sausage - very similar to the American version.
2. Black (blood) pudding - uniquely Scottish.
3. Hot oatmeal (porridge) - very different from the American type, and in my opinion, much tastier and with better texture.
4. Toast, muffins, scones, breads - very familiar.
5. Coffee and tea - both individually brewed.
6. Baked beans - heated.
7. Sautéed tomato slices and, often, mushrooms.
8. Seasonal fruit and fruit juices.
9. Preserves and butter (and possibly honey).
10. Yogurt - occasionally, but great for digestion.

I often make this my "big meal" of the day. It is certainly the most economical.

Because my inter-city travel in Scotland is often by ScotRail, I have commonly made use of the fare served from carts, which are brought through the coach isles. Beverages, sandwiches, biscuits, fruit, candy and other snack items are typically available. First class passengers usually get tea and biscuits



(cookies are called biscuits in the UK) on a complimentary basis.

Full service restaurants are most often out of my price range, but food typical of virtually every type and ethnicity can be found, especially in the larger cities.

American style fast food in many of its infamous incarnations is available there also - and I avoid it like the plague.

As I have already indicated, I prefer, wherever and whenever I travel to stay at small bed & breakfast establishments and or boutique/specialty hotels, whether here in the United States, or in Scotland, England, or elsewhere. Now don't get me wrong. The large chain hotels/motels have their place and I do use them when that is the best answer to my travel needs. However, I do like to spend time in places with some unique characteristics, and a sense of intimacy that just cannot be had with the "chains". My absolute all time favorite here in the USA is the Izaak Walton Inn in Essex, Montana. It is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a member of Historic Inns of the West. It is an old railroad hotel built by the Great Northern to house seasonal workers. It has long been in private hands and has been upgraded with private baths and other amenities, while maintaining a great deal of rustic charm. Relatively isolated in the western Montana mountains between Glacier Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness, there are no phones or TV in the rooms and cell phones do not work. I love it. It has some of the best food you will ever eat, served in a wholly unique dining room where you can watch trains of the BNSF Railway roll by. Now if we can find such places here in the USA, I can assure you that even more unique places to stay can be found in Scotland. I have stayed in an old Georgian row house in Edinburgh, a stylish town house with windows overlooking the River Ness in Inverness, a superbly comfortable recycled mansion house in Dunfermline, an old observatory in Fort William, and numerous other such unique places, many very old and some quite new.

BED & BREAKFAST RATING SYSTEM: To assist the traveler in the process of finding accommodations that they will find acceptable, several rating systems are in use in Scotland. The most common of the systems uses a scale of one to five stars, with five stars being the highest rating. (It is my understanding that these systems will be combined in the near future, and that may already be the case.) These systems are self-policed, and evaluations are reported into the system by small teams who make visits unannounced and incognito. I prefer the comfort

found in four star establishments, but many three star establishments will serve just as well. Costs will vary greatly from location to location. For example, a four star accommodation in a smaller city or rural area may well be priced less than a two star in a large city. You can save a great deal of money when you stay in the smaller cities and towns and commute by rail into Edinburgh or Glasgow.

I really enjoy meals in the family oriented country style pubs, which can be found just about anywhere and everywhere. Although variety is often somewhat limited, the quality is usually very good and the prices modest. The food at these establishments is as close to honest traditional Scottish fare that you are going to find.

"Take-away" shops abound, especially in high traffic areas near other shops, bus stations, and transit hubs. An almost bewildering variety of foods are available in this type of venue, including fish and chips, pizza, ethnic foods and much more. Indian cuisine seems to appear almost everywhere. Quality and esthetics in regard to the shops and the food they serve vary widely, so beware. Ask the locals to steer you to the best of them.

A visit to a small grocery (or even a supermarket) can provide you with crusty bread, quality local cheese, fruit, and other simple items, which can be enjoyed at your leisure and at very modest cost. Be prepared to accommodate yourself to some fairly significant differences from what you would expect to find in the states, for instance, peanut butter. I love the stuff. It may be hard to find in Scotland, and when you do it may not be the same as the product you are used to. Chocolate lovers will want to look for "plain chocolate" rather than the commonly available milk chocolate. It is not nearly as sweet and delivers a flavor, which the chocolate purist will quickly learn to appreciate. For those who cannot be without their soda, many of the same varieties we enjoy in the states will be found in Scotland - Coke, Pepsi, etc. in their various incarnations. Also be aware that there may be a few others which are unique to the UK and you may want to give them a try. One that I particularly like is a carbonated grapefruit/pineapple combination called Lilt.

The popularity of bottled water prompts me to caution you that should you wish plain spring water in the UK, ask for "still" water. Otherwise you will be served "charged" mineral water. Throughout Scotland, the water is very clean and you should have no problems using and consuming it. Where the water is not potable, there will usually be signs posted warning you that it is not.

As in any travel, use good common sense and self-discipline.



Membership Committee – Polly Bruce Tilford

The Family of Bruce International warmly welcomes new members who have recently joined!!!

“CEUD MILE FAILTE”

(ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND WELCOMES IN SCOTS GAELIC)

NEW MEMBERS:

Florida – Edmund Taylor Blackburn,

Adrienne Oxley Bruce

Georgia – Rebecca Neill

Nevada – Larry K. Dunn

Texas – Dan Sparks

NEW LIFE MEMBER:

Oklahoma - Norma Joyce Reusser

Thank you to all members for your support!!!!

As mentioned in previous newsletters, any member who turns 90 does not have to pay Annual Dues. The current list of members over 90 years old now include:

Charles F. Bruce of Georgia

Ben F. Bruce, Jr. of Bloomington, IN

William L. White of W. Laurens, NY,

Myra L. Stringfellow of Moultrie, GA

Dorothy A. Hall of Kerrville, TX

2011 Membership Cards will be sent to members in their paper newsletter or via separate mail for those who receive the newsletter via email. All Life members will receive their cards in the month of February and all Annual members that have paid for 2011 will receive their cards when the following newsletter is issued.

Annual Member Reminder

\$25 dues are payable on January 1, 2011.

Please write your check to Family of Bruce International, Inc. and mail to:

Polly Bruce Tilford

5561 Earl Young Road

Bloomington, IN 47408

Charitable Operations

The Charitable Operations arm of Family of Bruce International invites members to provide ideas and nominations for charitable giving for 2011. Each year, FOBI sets aside \$1000, which comes from donations and the operating budget, for charitable and scholarship purposes. We currently plan to sponsor several athletic awards at the 2011 Stone Mountain Highland Games, and a dance award at the Minnesota Highland Games.

We urge all members to first consider a tax-deductible donation to FOBI for charitable purposes. This will greatly benefit FOBI and the recipients of our charitable awards. Second we ask all of you to consider and notify us of anyone you think is deserving of our help. This can be anyone involved in Scottish related activities or studies. Or it can be sponsoring an award for an activity. Or be creative and come up with something else that you think is deserving of consideration for an award that is Bruce or Scottish related. Please let us know of any nominations that you have. You can do so by contacting Don Bruce, Vice President of FOBI and head of the Charitable Operations Committee. Don's contact information is

Don Bruce, FSA Scot

1051 Eagle Ridge Trail

Stillwater, MN 55082

Or don@familyofbruce.org

If you have any questions about our charitable works, please feel free to contact Don or any of the Board members. Thanks for your help.

The Deadline for input to the NEXT ISSUE IS April 15, 2011!!

Please send pictures and/or stories to Deb Gottlieb at deb@familyofbruce.org or by mail to 1495 Jones Road, Roswell, GA 30075

Thank you to all who submitted input and family stories. We certainly have had some wonderful biographies in many of our newsletter editions. Please keep these stories coming!!



Merchandise for Sale

Family of Bruce International offers several products for sale. The proceeds are used to fund activities of the Family of Bruce International. Most of these products are described on the FOBI website:

<http://www.familyofbruce.org/merch.htm>

Merchandise can be ordered by sending a request and a check payable to Family of Bruce International, Inc. to:

Mrs. Polly Bruce Tilford
5561 Earl Young Road
Bloomington, IN 47408

DVD -

The 700th Anniversary of The Enthronement of Robert Bruce. The DVD contains footage of the events on Sunday, March 26, 2006. You will hear the incredible music and an upfront view of the church service at St. John's Kirk, and the Ceremony of Acclaim and events at Scone Palace. The DVD is approx. two hours long. \$21.00 (\$20.00 + \$1.00 shipping)

Bruce Family History - DVD version. Family of Bruce Video was produced in 1974 by our Chief, the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine to mark the 700th anniversary of the birth of King Robert I. This is a very fine exposition of the history of our Family, and should be in the collection of every Bruce. Also available as a VHS video \$21.00 (\$20 + \$1 shipping)

BOOKS -

Duncan A. Bruce is a well-known author on Scottish events and people. Mr. Bruce is Lord Elgin's Personal Representative in the United States. Books by Duncan A. Bruce include:

The Scottish 100 - Portraits of History's Most Influential Scots. Signed copy - \$19.00 (\$17 + \$2 shipping)

The Great Scot - a novel of Robert the Bruce, Scotland's Legendary Warrior King. Signed copy - \$27.00 (\$25 + \$2 shipping)

The Elgins - 1766-1917 - by Sydney Checkland. Period history of the Earls of Elgin, their families, and Broomhall. \$32.00 (\$30 + \$2 shipping)

Rebel King Series - Book One - Hammer of the Scots, Book Two - The Har'ships, and Book Three - Bannock Burn - by Charles Randolph Bruce & Carolyn Hale Bruce.

www.rebelking.com

Hardback - \$31 (\$29 + \$2 shipping)
Paperback - \$22 (\$20 + \$2 shipping)



SHIRTS -

Green Bruce T-shirt with quote from the Declaration of Arbroath on the back. Sizes Small to 3XL - \$18.00 (\$15 + \$3 shipping)

Black 700th Anniversary T-shirt with the Bannockburn King Robert statue. Sizes Large, XL, and 2XL - \$18.00 (\$15 + \$3 shipping)

Polo Shirts with the Bruce name and the American and St. Andrews Flag. Colors White, Dark Gray,)

Sizes - Small - XX-Large. \$28.00 (\$25 + \$3 shipping)

NEW ITEMS -

Tote Bag - \$21 (\$18 + \$3 shipping) Cap - \$18 (\$15 + \$3 shipping)



Forest Green
Bruce Only



Black or Forest Green
Bruce or Scotland

Deep side & inside pocket

Embroidered American and St. Andrews Flags

MISCELLANEOUS -

Family of Bruce Note Cards & Bookmark - with Bruce Modern Tartan



Cards \$2.75 each with matching envelopes - Heather (shown), Thistle, Scottie Dog
Christmas Cards - Piper (shown), Angel, & Bell

Bookmarks - \$3.50 each



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The role of Commissioner is not directly affiliated with Family of Bruce International. It is a designation as a representative of the Name of Bruce as authorized by the Chief or under his delegated authority.

Chief's Personal Representative and Honorary Member - Duncan A. Bruce, FSA Scot

Editor **THE BLUE LION** – Deborah Bruce Gottlieb, FSA Scot

Webmaster – Thomas B. Bruce

Family of Bruce International is a non-profit organization established to create and promote kinship amongst its family members and to encourage interest in the Family of Bruce and its history. Membership is open to persons interested in their Scottish heritage and especially those who qualify by surname, by descent, or by recognized septs: Carlisle, Carruthers, Crosby, Randolph, and Stenhouse. It is the only such organization recognized by the hereditary chief of the Name of Bruce, The Right Honorable the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine.

Mission Statement: *"To promote, honor, and preserve our Scottish and Bruce heritage by sponsoring activities, events, scholarships, and continual communication through the newsletter and website. We will therefore, provide educational information, tributes to our history and ancestors, and thereby attract Bruces and Septs into the enjoyment and celebration of our familial relationships.*

CREST*: A lion statant with tail extended azure, armed and langued gules.

ARMS*: Or, a saltire and chief gules, on a canton argent a lion rampant azure.

MOTTO: *FUIMUS* – We have been.

* The Crest and Arms belong to the Chief and can only be used by him. Use of the Crest surrounded by a buckled belt is acceptable.

FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL, INC. – FEBRUARY 2011

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Below are pictures from the Gottlieb's visit to the Robert the Bruce Heritage Centre

From these pictures you can see the extensive amount of displays and information available.
The Centre is a wonderful place for the family to visit and truly experience
warm Scottish hospitality and friendship.



King Robert I (Paul Hunter) with the Queen (Jeanette Ryan) and Ben Gottlieb



Elspeth Crocket shows Deb Gottlieb articles published about the Centre as Duncan Thomson and the King look on



Duncan shows Ben and Deb some of the foundation from King Robert's land that was recently excavated



Duncan explains to Ben the banners and crests located behind the throne area as Brenda Cameron talks with Deb in the back ground.