

THE

BLUE LION



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THE FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL, INC. USA.

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BANNOCKBURN 2014

As time nears to the 700th anniversary of Bannockburn, the plans for a number of official events in Scotland are still evolving. Since the anniversary of the battle is June 23-24, we can be assured there will be many commemoration events around Stirling and the Bannockburn Battle area on those days. As the details for these events unfold, the plans for our Bruce events can be more finalized. We do know from Lord Elgin that he is planning a private gathering, including the members of the Family of Bruce International, at Dunfermline Abbey on June 27, 2014. The dates and details of a Bruce bus tour and other planned activities will not be fully defined until the public and official events are vetted.

This issue of **THE BLUE LION** includes a four page membership roster insert instead of the next article in the Preparing for Bannockburn series. This series will continue in the May 2013 issue with article V: Edward Bruce Makes an Agreement (1313) and article VI: Preparing for Battle (1313 – June 1314)! These articles are part of an effort to clarify events leading up to and after Bannockburn.

A communication committee is under discussion to decide on how we might better provide our members with information concerning current Bruce activities as well as our Bruce heritage. We are looking to enlist a number of our members to help in this effort. If you are interested in being part of this effort, please contact Deb Bruce Gottlieb at deb@familyofbruce.org!



Battle of Bannockburn – 2nd day - <http://www.markchurms.com/mm5/graphics/bannockburn-1.jpg>



DEAR FAMILY —

Much has happened since I last wrote to you. Phyllis and I have both had to deal with health issues – successfully we trust, the seasons of Christmas and New Years have come and gone, the board has dealt with many issues – financial, charitable, planning for the coming games season, planning for our participation in the events of 2014 relating to the Bannockburn celebration, and so much more. This is the time of year when I can afford to pause just a bit in terms of my responsibilities and think about all of what has happened in the past year and what I need to be aware of and do in the coming year, and I am doing just that.

We are already planning for the 2013 games/events season with more members involved across the nation than ever before. I have been in conference with board members of the Minnesota Scottish Fair, one of the season's earliest events (May 4th) concerning our participation there. I will be looking at several others, and, as a matter of fact, events all across the United States along with all of our board members and event hosts. With the expansion of our involvement, we could really use additional help at virtually every event in which we participate. Think about how you might help us and contact our Operations Officer, Deb Bruce Gottlieb, to volunteer. There is much that you can do with whatever talents you may have to make our efforts successful.

On January 19th, there was a Bruce contingent of twelve persons attending the Minnesota St. Andrew Society "Burn's Night Celebration". Our vice-president, Don Bruce, and his wife Kathy, were the "movers and shakers" for that event, which proved to be extraordinarily successful (not to mention a lot of fun). *[See photos of our people there – elsewhere in this issue.]* Here in Minnesota we have our "Scottish Ramble" coming up in February and the "Tartan Day Ball" coming up in April, as major events on our Scottish calendars. Permit me to encourage all FOBII members to get involved in their local activities, and yes, volunteer to help. This is another way in which you can make the name and family of Bruce better known, respected and appreciated.

For those of you who are already involved in local events, give some thought to inviting me or one of our other national leaders to be a guest at your event. We may not be able to accept every invitation, but we will certainly accept as many as we can. Once again, this is a way to make FOBII

better known and respected across these United States. I would also wish to take this opportunity to send my most sincere thanks and good wishes to all of you who are already volunteers and participants in FOBII and other local events. We could not do all of what we do without your support.

Another way to support FOBII USA is to recruit new members. Perhaps there are those in your own families who are not yet members and that you can encourage to join us. Gift memberships are a particularly appreciated way of making that happen. Just download applications from our website, fill them out for the person(s) you wish to gift, and send them along with the membership fee to our national secretary, Polly Bruce Tilford (contact information elsewhere in this issue). Each new member will shortly receive a "New Member Packet", loaded with information about FOBII USA, and one of our brand new badges introduced at Stone Mountain in October. These badges were designed by our national treasurer, Steve Bruce, a remarkably talented graphic artist (and also a retired Marine), and show a Scottish National flag with a superimposed crest, as well as our Family name. They are the most impressive badges I have ever seen any clan/family member wear – and I have seen many. You will be proud to wear one.

YOURS AYE,
William





2013 Scottish Games planned for FOBI

CALIFORNIA –

April 27-28 – Sacramento Valley Scottish Highland Games & Festival – Yolo County Fair Grounds, Woodland – Joel Bruce Crow – www.saccallie.org/games/

August 31 – Sept 1 – Pleasanton Games – Alameda County Fairgrounds – Joel Bruce Crow
<http://www.thescottishgames.com/>

September 28 – Dixon Games – Joel Bruce Crow *tentative*
<http://www.scotsindixon.org/dsca/games.html>

October 11-13 – Seaside Highland Games – Julie Goldsworth – Ventura County www.seaside-games.com/

GEORGIA – Deb Bruce Gottlieb & Steve Bruce

June 8-9 – Blairsville <http://www.blairvillescottishfestival.org/>

October 18-20 – Stone Mountain Highland Games
www.smhg.org – Annual Meeting – 1pm and Annual Dinner at 6pm on Saturday!!

INDIANA – Polly Bruce Tilford

September 14-15 – Columbus Highland Games, Columbus
www.scottishfestival.org

KENTUCKY – Polly Bruce Tilford

May 31-June 2 – Glasgow Highland Games, Glasgow
www.glasgowhighlandgames.com

MAINE – Charles F. Bruce III

August 17 – Maine Highland Games, Topsham Fairgrounds
www.mainehighlandgames.org

MINNESOTA – William Bruce

May 4 – Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games, Farmington
www.mnscottishfair.org

NEW YORK – Nick Carrado and Ann E. Eldred

August 10 – Central New York Scottish Games
www.cnyscottishgames.org/CNY_Scottish_Games/Welcome.html

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Chuck Bruce (would like volunteers!)

September 20-22 – 38th New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival, Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH
<http://www.nhscot.org/>

NORTH CAROLINA – Deb Bruce Gottlieb & Steve Bruce

July 11-14 – Grandfather Mountain www.gmhq.org

OKLAHOMA – MarLo Alexander

September 13-16 – Oklahoma Scottish Games & Gathering, Tulsa www.tulsascottishgames.org

OHIO –

June 20-22 – Ohio Scottish Games – Kenneth Swank – Lorain County Fairgrounds, Wellington, OH
<http://www.ohioscottishgames.com/>

Oct 12-13 – Ohio Renaissance Festival – Highland Weekend, Harveysburg, OH – Polly Bruce Tilford -
<http://www.renfestival.com/>

SOUTH CAROLINA – Deb Bruce Gottlieb & Steve Bruce

May 24-25 – Greenville Scottish Games, Furman University, Greenville www.greenvillegames.org

TEXAS – Vizi Bruce Lange-Caldwell

April 27-28 – Houston Celtic Festival & Highland Games, Houston Farm & Ranch Club, Houston
<http://www.houstonhighlandgames.com/>

VIRGINIA – Gerald Cousins

April (date not available yet) – Fort Lee Celtic Festival

August 31 – September 1 – Virginia Scottish Festival – The Plains -
<http://www.vascottishgames.org/>

October 19-20 Central Virginia Highland Games and Celtic Festival – Richmond Raceway Complex, VA -
<http://vacelticfestival.com/>

WASHINGTON – Susan White

July 27-28 – Annual Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering, Enumclaw -www.sshga.org/

WISCONSIN – William Bruce & Don Bruce

August 30 - September 1 – Wisconsin Scottish Fair, (Waukesha Expo Center – Waukesha, Wisconsin)
www.wisconsinscottish.org/

TENTATIVE GAMES – Are you interested in Hosting a Bruce Tent?

COLORADO – August 10-11 – Rocky Mountain Scottish Games

– Highlands Ranch - 50th annual
<http://www.scottishgames.org/>

September 5-8 – Longs Peak Scottish/Irish Highland Festival – Estes Park www.scotfest.com

IOWA – September 15 – Scottish Games of the Quad Cities, Centennial Park, Davenport

SOUTH CAROLINA – September 21 – Charleston Scottish Games & Highland Gathering, Charleston, SC *tentative* www.charlestonscots.org

TENNESSEE – May 17-19 – Smoky Mountain Highland Games,

Maryvale College, Maryvale TN
www.smokymountaingames.org

YOUR INPUT WANTED!!!!

If you are interested in helping out or hosting a Bruce Tent, please contact:
Deb Bruce Gottlieb, 1495 Jones Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075 or to deb@familyofbruce.org



I AM PLEASED THAT YOU ASKED: (Phase One)

Questions & Answers about the Family of Bruce & our Scottish Heritage:

March 2008

By William Bruce, M.A., FSA Scot

1. **Where and how did the BRUCE name originate?**
In Scandinavia and later in France (Normandy), with the actual spelling of the name undergoing several permutations over the centuries.

2. **I am a BRUCE. How am I related to King Robert I? Grandma/Uncle Duncan told me we are "direct descendants" of Robert The Bruce. Can that be true?** This question and others similar to it are asked/claimed by persons at virtually every event we attend. There is no easy answer. Unfortunately, well meaning relatives who are usually not very well informed themselves, often perpetuate notions that have little basis in reality. The idea that one is a direct descendant of King Robert is one of these notions. Although King Robert had a number of legitimate children, no male child, including King David II, produced an heir. However, Robert's eldest daughter, Princess Marjorie who married the High Steward of Scotland, did indeed produce offspring resulting in the founding of the House of Stewart, the House of the Stuart kings. Therefore, if you are a Stuart, you could possibly be a descendant. There are other conceivable scenarios, but a great deal of genealogical research and just plain luck would be needed to provide a legitimate claim.

3. **How is it that we call ourselves a family rather than a clan?** We are all blood kin – therefore family. The Bruce's who exist today all trace their ancestry to the first Lord of Clackmannan and are, therefore, blood kin, however distant. A translation of the Gaelic word for clan offers the word "family". However, the contemporary idea of clan has come to include a much broader concept and may include persons who are linked by service, tradition, region, etc. Today we can all point to the fact that in some manner we are genetically linked to our Chief, Lord Elgin, thus reinforcing the idea that all Bruce's are indeed family.

4. **Do we have any tartans that belong to us?** Yes – for all practical purposes there are only two. The most commonly seen/worn is the "Bruce Modern". We also often see the "Bruce Ancient". It is called ancient not because of having been around longer than the other, but because its colors are more muted in the style of the older vegetable dyes. The pattern (set) is identical to the modern. These are the only two which you are likely to find woven into fabric which you can actually purchase. There are other tartans linked to the Bruce name, but I would be astonished if you were to find them available from any commercial source. "Bruce of Kinnaird" is rare but sometimes offered in woven fabric.

5. **How are tartans identified and what criteria are used to distinguish between them?**

For those who wish to know more about tartans, the best source is what is known as "The Scottish Tartans Authority". This organization catalogs all known tartans and give "official" approval to new ones. They have a website www.tartansauthority.com. You should know that in addition to clan/family tartans, there are state, provincial, regional, national, professional, military and personal tartans.

6. **I am a (Carlisle, Caruthers, Crosby, Randolph, Stenhouse) and I want to know how I am related to the Bruce's and whether or not I belong with you?** If you carry one of the five names above, you are indeed related to us, primarily by marriage. Each of these five is considered to be a "sept" (related family) of Bruce. According to both tradition and the by-laws of our family organization, you are indeed one of us and eligible for full participation in Family Of Bruce International.

7. **I am a Stuart and I have heard that we are related to the Bruce's. How so?** Through Princess Marjorie, King Robert's daughter. See answer in #2 above.

8. **Who is this "Chief" of the family and as a BRUCE what is my relationship to him?** The Earl of Elgin & Kincardine (Lord Elgin), Sir Andrew Bruce. He is the 37th in a long line of hereditary chiefs of the family and a member of the Scottish "Council of Chiefs". He is a "Knight of the Thistle", the highest order of chivalry in Scotland. As of this year (2008) he is 84 years of age, healthy and vigorous, with great dignity and deserving of our respect and loyalty.

9. **Where in Scotland do we come from?** Several places – I will show you on a map. Another map of Bruce related sites will be provided to you in your "New Members Packet".

10. **Do I have BRUCE relatives in Scotland? How do I find out?** There are many people in Scotland who carry the Bruce surname. Because we are all blood kin and therefore family, you do indeed have relatives in Scotland. However, unless you can show otherwise (through genealogical investigation), the relationship is likely quite distant and it will be very difficult to nail down specific connections.

11. **What is this organization (FOBII) and should I be a member?** Family Of Bruce International Incorporated. Generally yes. For many years, there were two Bruce organizations in the United States, which was at best an awkward and contradictory situation. In 2005, both organizations dissolved and a new Bruce organization was created – FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL INC. - . If your surname is Bruce or that of one of our septs, or if your mother or grandmother carried one of those names, you should be a member.

12. **I saw the movie "Braveheart". Is it real history?** I too have seen the film and I must admit that from one point of view it is a fun action film, very entertaining stuff. Even Mel Gibson, whatever you may think of him, did bring a certain "panache" to the screen. As to its historicity, I am afraid it falls flat on its face. It is a prime example of



Hollywood hype – both misinformation and disinformation. For example, blue face paint had not been used by Celts for at least 500 years prior to the time period the film attempts to portray – if indeed it ever was, and the type of kilt used in the film to distinguish between the English and the Scots had not yet been invented. There was a William Wallace, and he is considered to be (along with “The Bruce”) one of the “heroes of Scottish Independence”. However, the movie portrayal and the accurate historic role of this individual simply do not match. Clan Wallace does a fine job portraying the “real” braveheart in materials they have produced and distribute.

13. **How and why did you get involved in all this “Scottish stuff”?** I plead a combination of pride and insanity. Having said that, getting to know my Scottish family and learning the history, heritage and culture of Scotland has had profound effect on my sense of identity. Simply said, I love it and the family which connects me to it.

14. **Do you play the bagpipes?** No, although I love the sound of them. The great highland pipes, like most musical instruments, vary in quality in both construction and performance. I really believe that those who say they cannot stand to hear them have never heard a high quality set of pipes played by a gifted musician. One of the most nearly transcendent experiences of my life was a visit to Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness on a heavily overcast day, and watching/hearing a lone piper perched on the stone walls with his music echoing over the loch.

15. **About kilts, sporrans, - clothing for both men and woman.** I am frequently asked what it is like to wear a kilt and how such a garment came about. (There are literally whole books that have been prepared on this subject.) I will often start with a description of the “great kilt” and how it is folded and worn, and how that was reflected in the life of a highlander in years past. We Bruce’s, being lowland Scots of Norman extraction have (as so many others) adopted quite a number of the specifics of traditional highland dress. I own and wear two kilts, both of which were personally fitted and tailored for me and were made in Scotland. One is a formal kilt (8 yards of heavy wool) in the modern Bruce tartan and used primarily for indoor events and in cold weather. The other is a casual kilt (6 yards of medium weight wool) in the ancient Bruce tartan and used primarily for outdoor events in mild weather. Quite obviously, a kilt does not have pockets. The sporran is a leather/fur pouch for carrying what any Scotsman might otherwise carry in his pockets. There is so much more, and many varying opinions as to what is correct and proper. Please do not hesitate to ask about other items.

16. **About banners and flags.** At events at which I am the host, I will display the Scottish National Flag (St. Andrew Cross), the Lion Rampant Flag (Royal Flag of Scotland – carefully displayed in an appropriate historical context), Bruce tartan banners in both ancient & modern, a Minnesota tartan banner, the Stars & Stripes (American Flag), and whatever other flag or banner may be appropriate. Beginning this year I will display a banner

relating to the 700th anniversary of the Battle at Bannockburn. A guest with their own “armorial” banner which is recognized by the Lyon Court will be honored by having that flown on site. Sometimes a state and/or provincial flag will be appropriate. I will show both the Minnesota state flag and the Nova Scotia provincial flag. The Nova Scotia flag is the St. Andrew Cross with the colors reversed and a red/gold shield upon which the Lion Rampant is imposed at the center. Protocols can vary from place to place, so I am very careful about correct placement.

17. **What about the Bruce Coat of Arms?** In Scottish terms, there are no such things as a Family Coat of Arms. The main Armorial Bearings (components) of our Chief are the basis of all the other Arms of people bearing the name of Bruce, but his Armorial Bearings are his alone and can only be used by him. If you desire to use Armorial Bearings yourself you must acquire your own personal set. That can be quite an undertaking and would require the approval of the Lyon Court for full recognition.

18. **Have you been to Scotland?** Yes – three times, and I will go again at first opportunity. On my first visit I was struck by the very strong impression that I was home from a long journey, that here was another place where I belong. That impression has not changed. In fact, with further travel and study, it has become all the more deeply imprinted on my personality and character. Although I am an American, and proud of the fact, there is a bit of my heart and mind that will always be in Scotland. Scotland is a great place to visit, learn and recreate. I have memorialized my Scottish travels and experiences in a booklet entitled “Will Ye No Come Back Again?”. Contact me for a copy.

19. **Why do you do this (host an event tent)?** I plead a combination of pride and insanity. Having said that, I do it because I love it, and because I love it I want to share it with others. Meeting and getting to know Bruce’s and others who are part of the various Scottish communities around the United States (and elsewhere) has been a very great pleasure, and I have been able to make many new friends in the process.

20. **What do you wear under your kilt? A truly insolent question.** This is a question asked all too often by people who should know better, but it happens nonetheless. I make a quick attempt to ascertain if the questioner is hostile, ignorant, foolish, or merely misguided, and I respond based on that judgment. Over the years I have acquired quite a repertoire of answers, not all of them appropriate for use by a gentleman and scholar. I do my best to respond gently, but it is often difficult. I find it best to be obscure and leave it to the imagination of the questioner as to what the truth is. ON THE OTHER HAND – if a person who is new to wearing highland dress asks the question and it is clear that they really need to know, I provide them with “suitable details”.

21. **About the heavy games/events.** In this case I merely describe the various events and if more information



is required I refer the questioner to participants. I think it best to suggest that the questioner watch the athletes compete in the various events and learn what the rules are for each one, and how the events are scored. The athletes themselves, both the professionals and amateurs, are the best source for information. Although they may look intimidating to some, they are (for the most part) fine Scottish gentlemen.

22. **About Scottish dancing, both country and highland.** In this case I usually describe my own appreciation for this activity in which I have absolutely no skill but have very high regard for those who do. If more information is required, I refer the questioner to the local highland dance schools/performers and/or the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Very often, especially at games and fairs, the public is invited to "give it a try". Take them up on the invitation. You will not be sorry.

23. **What is haggis? (and then) Do you really eat that stuff?** Traditionally, haggis was made with what was left of a sheep after the English were done with it. Seriously, the "sweetmeats" (heart, liver, lungs, kidneys, brain) were ground up and mixed with oatmeal, salt, pepper and herbs. This mixture was stuffed into a sheep's stomach and boiled till "done". It was VERY high in both fat and cholesterol. More recently, haggis has been made with ground lamb substituting for the sweetmeats. It is one of those foods that when it is badly made is very bad indeed, but when properly prepared can be a very tasty entrée. Today it is often served at "Burns Night" suppers and other special events. I enjoy it with neeps (mashed rutabaga) and tatties (mashed potatoes), usually taking a bit of each on my fork.

24. **Since I am a BRUCE, can my wife/husband wear the BRUCE tartan?** Yes. Many of us are married to persons of another ethnicity. In my own case, my ethnic "Swedish" wife wears the Bruce tartan with pride, and sometimes the Minnesota tartan as well. She is an accomplished Scottish country dancer and in many ways has become just as much of a Scot as I am.

25. **What should I read to get started learning something of Scottish history?** *"The Story Of Scotland"* by Nigel Tranter. Tranter has often been called Scotland's "storyteller". Although he is best known for his historical fiction, he is considered to be an astute historian as well. This book takes advantage of Tranter's considerable literary skills to tell *"The Story Of Scotland"* in a very accurate and readable fashion, palatable to just about every reader. It is a sound basis for further reading and study. It is currently (2008) in print and should be available through either your local bookstore or library.

If you have other questions, or if you want more detail to those answered here, please do not hesitate to contact me and/or other members of the Family of Bruce for assistance.

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I AM GLAD THAT YOU ASKED: (Phase Two)

William Bruce, FOBII USA President -
October, 2012:

I often have all sorts of people, particularly newer FOBII members, and those visiting us at Scottish events, ask me questions about things "Scottish". The following are some of those questions and the answers I typically give. In January of 2008 I wrote a series of answers to many of these questions which have been published in the Blue Lion and distributed to many guests at Scottish events ever since. The following should be considered an update to, rather than a replacement of, that earlier document, with some new things added. I wish to caution the reader that at least some of these are my own answers/opinions and not all of them should be considered as "official FOBII positions". For many of you these questions and answers will seem very elementary, but persons new to our Scottish and Bruce communities need to learn these things, and for others it should be a good "refresher". I wish to acknowledge the cooperation of Deborah Bruce Gottlieb and Thomas Allen Bruce, who both contributed significantly to this article..

1. **Do we Bruce's have a motto?** Yes we do, or at least that is how it is usually referred to. It is the Latin word "fuius" which is translated into English as "we have been". However, I like the extended version we have come to use which is "fuius, sumus, erimus", which is translated as "we have been, we are, we shall be". I also like the further extension which my professor & Latin scholar son suggested which is "clunem calcitramus" & translated as "we kick butt". That last part is very unofficial.

2. **Do we Bruce's have a war/battle cry?** Not really, though our "peaceful personal nature and history" is instructive in this regard, but since we are often asked at games or other events to give one I would suggest the following. *"For Scotland & Saint Andrew - A Bruce, A Bruce"*.

3. **What tartan can I wear?** Here in the USA the answer is anyone you choose. There is no law preventing your own choice, however, custom and propriety should guide that choice. If you are a Bruce I recommend either the Bruce Modern or Bruce Ancient tartans, as they are the ones most commonly woven, sold and worn, and therefore the ones that will most likely be available and at reasonable prices. There are other Bruce related tartans you may find interesting. Also, there are tartans designed to be used by anyone, such as the Black Watch, Scottish National & Pride of Scotland. There are also tartans for each branch of military service, a number of professions, and for many US states and Canadian provinces. Just "Google" the "Scottish Tartans Authority" to find examples of what might be the best choices for you.

4. **Can a woman wear a kilt?** Well now, it does not happen often, and traditionally only men wear kilts, but I have seen a fair number of women doing so. Typically, a



woman wears a kilted skirt. The structure of the kilted skirt is more tapered and has less yardage of tartan in comparison to the structure of a man's kilt which is straight down from the waste and shows the full set of the tartan in the stitched down area through the hip. My wife has a kilted skirt in the Bruce Modern, a standard long skirt in the Bruce Ancient, a wrap around skirt in the Minnesota Tartan and another in Black Watch.

5. How about footwear? For formal/dress occasions I wear black leather "Ghillies". They are something like ordinary leather dress shoes but without a tongue, are low cut, and sport long laces which tie around the ankles. At games and other outdoor events I wear a simple pair of black all purpose sport shoes. I have sometimes worn high leather dress boots, and have recently purchased a pair of soft suede boots which travel well. Wear what you have and don't worry about it. As to kilt hose, traditionally only pipers wear white. However, virtually any color is OK. Most people try to match a color in their own tartan. I usually wear a dark green, similar to the green in the Bruce tartan.

6. What about a sporran – there seem to be so many choices? Again, it depends on what captures your fancy. I have an understated seal skin sporran for formal occasions and a simple cow hide one for all else. Some of the new soft leather pouches which substitute for the traditional sporran have a lot more room and are quite practical. You should not wear a piper's sporran, unless, of course, you are a piper. Recently I have seen people wearing huge "animal pelt with head" obscenities as sporrans, and I have to say that I find them in very bad taste, garish and, frankly, offensive. (I have two rescue Shetland Sheepdogs – understand?)

7. I see a lot of flags at Scottish Fairs. Could/should I fly one? One of the two most commonly flown flags at Scottish events is the "saltire" (also known as the St. Andrew Cross) and is the Scottish National flag. It is the one with the white X across a field of blue. It can be flown here in the USA by anyone, so long as it is done with respect and in deference to the "Stars & Stripes". The other one commonly seen (crimson on gold) is known as the "Rampant Lion", and technically is flown only to indicate the presence of the monarch. The current monarch has indicated that she has no problem with its display as long as it is done with respect. My own take on this is that as Americans, we should not use/fly it except as part of an educational exhibit/display on some aspect of the monarchy, past or present. Flying the Stars & Stripes and your own state or provincial flag is just fine at an American/Scottish event. I often display the provincial flag of Nova Scotia, just because I like it, and I also have friends who are native Nova Scotians.. It is a reverse saltire with a lion rampant crest imposed over the cross.

8. I have seen many people with tartan material worn over the shoulder. Why do they do that? It is reminiscent of a much older style of dress where a large piece of material was pleated, folded and draped to form a single piece all purpose garment. Today it is merely a form of style.

Tradition suggests that men wear their "plaid" over the left shoulder and women wear their sash or shawl over the right. Women who are Chiefs, wives of Chiefs, and some female military personnel wear their sash over the left shoulder. Tradition also suggests that it be held in place by some form of broach, pin, or other jewelry. Again, it is merely an adaptation of historic tradition to modern practice.

9. I have decided to purchase a kilt. What should I order, what is a reasonable price, and from whom should I buy it? Usually your best all-around choice is a modern tailored kilt in your own clan's tartan. Best practice would be to have yourself measured for it by a professional kilt maker in Scotland and custom fitted to your own personal size and shape. The best looking and longest wearing kilts are made of wool and are made in this fashion. My first kilt, and what is still my formal use kilt, was made to measure in Scotland from heavyweight 16 ounce wool tartan fabric – eight square yards of it. It is very heavy and took some getting used to. My second kilt was measured by an experienced person here in the states and the measurements sent to Scotland where it was made. It is six square yards of medium weight wool and is very comfortable, even in very warm weather. Both of mine are pleated to set, and that seems to be the preferred way to do it. Mind you, kilts made as I have described tend to be very expensive. Several dealers here in the US, and I assume elsewhere as well, have imported tartan kilts made from polyester/wool blends in third world countries in "stock sizes", and you order only by waist/hip and length. I have seen many that are badly made, have poor color accuracy, and look shabby. Others seem to be well made with very good color accuracy and they would appear to be quite a bargain. If you can fit into a stock size it could work out OK for you, as long as you don't expect it to last a lifetime like the wool kilts usually do. I am also seeing more men wearing what has come to be known as the utilikilt, originally designed and made by a company out of Seattle. It is usually made in a course/tough utilitarian fabric and with pockets so a sporran is not needed. It is not traditional in any sense of the word, but if you like it, it is a very affordable alternative. FOBII has a list of vendors with whom we have had a successful relationship. You will find the list on our website and it is published from time to time in the Blue Lion. They will be your best source for current pricing.

10. Does FOBII have any particular political or religious points of view? No, we do not. We are neither a political or religious organization, and do not make pronouncements or take positions in either of these areas. We are classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) not for profit charitable organization. Our members are thoughtful and intelligent persons who take their political, social and religious beliefs and responsibilities very seriously. However, in my experience, they are always respectful of the opinions and beliefs of others. Once again, let me emphasize, that we are neither a political or religious organization, and although we take no organizational positions in these areas, neither do we refrain from learning about and dealing with them as part of



our cultural/historical heritage as Americans of Scottish decent. We are an American branch of a historically significant Scottish family, and as such we do not involve ourselves in issues which the Scots themselves are processing, such as the current debate over devolution.

11. How can I keep up to date on what is happening with FOBII around the country, and how can I get more questions answered as they come up? As I am sure you have heard, we publish an "E-Magazine" four times a year to respond to just that need. It also contains instructive articles in the areas of history, culture, heraldry, and much more. Our website www.familyofbruce.org is a treasure trove of FOBII information – and has a special "members only" section. As a new member, you have received a "New Member Packet" to get you started learning what FOBII USA is all about. All of your board members have listed e-mail and US mail addresses and invite you to use them to contact us with your questions.

12. Is my membership in FOBII USA just for me alone? What does it cover? All of our memberships are essentially family memberships. A membership may cover just one person, or the primary member, their spouse, and any children (natural or adopted) under the age of 18. The primary member, male or female, must have been born a Bruce (or one of our sept families), or be first or second generation offspring of same. We are essentially egalitarian in that both male and female members share exactly the same rights and responsibilities in membership. Associate membership is available for all others who share our goals and interests.

13. How is FOBII governed? We have a very detailed set of by-laws along with a number of organizational policies which guide how we operate. We have a board of directors, and a set of organizational officers, elected by the membership, who take care of the regular business of FOBII USA. In October of each year we have our AGM (Annual General Membership Meeting). Since the original formation of our organization it has been held in conjunction with the Stone Mountain Highland Games, at Stone Mountain State Park, in Stone Mountain, Georgia – not far from Atlanta – each October. All FOBII members are encouraged to attend. This event is possibly the largest annual gathering of persons of Scots heritage in the United States, and the very best venue in which to get to know the FOBII USA leadership. (The by-laws are located on the www.familyofbruce.org members only page.).

14. How do we define ourselves in relation to the larger Scottish Community? This is a challenging question and requires a careful answer. We call ourselves a "family" as opposed to a "clan". The reason we do so is twofold. First, virtually all persons born with the Bruce surname are, in fact, blood kin (although most quite distantly), and therefore family. Second, this is the usage preferred by our chief. As a practical matter, we operate in much the same way as most clan organizations do here in the United States. Many Americans of Scots heritage cherish the notion that all Scots are "highlanders" and are descended from "Celtic" stock.

Few things could be further from the truth. Early tribal groups other than the Celts, as well as Scandinavians, French and others contributed to the Scottish stock. Historically, most Scottish Bruce's are "lowlanders", having chosen to live south of the so called "Highland Line". This is not to say that highland and Celtic influences have not been part of our history. For example, King Robert's mother was a Celtic Scot and we have every reason to believe that he could and did occasionally use the "old tongue" when consorting with his Highland allies. Our surname came to us with a progenitor known as "de Bruis", who arrived in what today is the UK with William the Conqueror from Normandy in France in the year 1066. King Robert's great grandfather married into the Scottish royal family in approximately 1219, and through this marriage the Bruce's were joined in the lineage of the succession to the Scottish throne. We are listed among the 120 plus Scottish clans and families recognized by the Lyon Court and we are as unquestionably Scottish as any could possibly be. Our chief is Sir Andrew Bruce, the 11th Earl of Elgin, the 15th Earl of Kincardine, a Knight of the Thistle, and the 37th hereditary chief of the Name & Family of Bruce. As part of the Scottish diaspora, we American Bruce's have become a very diverse lot, and we number among our membership persons with Hispanic, Native, and African twists to their Bruce heritage as well as those of primarily European heritage.

15. Can you help us with our genealogical searches? Genealogical study is not a primary focus of our organization. However, many of our members are significantly involved in such studies. Our web site offers much that genealogists, both professional and amateur, have and do use to help expand and validate their searches. One prime focus of many of our members is Bruce history, and that has often been an enlightening avenue for those with genealogical interest.

16. How do we presently relate to the other clans, families and houses identified by the Lyon Court? Our local Scottish communities provide us with ample opportunity to get to know and associate with members of the other clans and families to a significant degree. Inclusive organizations such as the various Saint Andrew Societies, and in my own case the "Twin Cities Scottish Club" are good examples. Special interest groups such as the Royal Scottish Country Dance Association also function to bring some of us together. On a national level, groups such as COSCA (Council of Scottish Clans & Associations) of which we are a member, serve to link our leadership with the leadership of other clans and families. On a more personal level, we enjoy the relationships we have built over the years with other Scots at Scottish games, fairs and other ethnic specific activities. One of the things I most love to do is "meet, greet & teach" other Scots, and the general public as well, who are drawn to our tents and displays.

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Quadruplets on 12-12-12

FOBI members Justin and Kimberly Cousins became first time parents when their quadruplets were born on December 12, 2012!!! The two boys and two girls are doing well and hope to be out of the hospital and home with Mom and Dad soon. Cody is the oldest, Brady followed a minute later, and then the girls Caitlin and Rylie a minute and two later.

Grandparents, FOBI Members Debbie & Gerald Cousins, Sr. and Uncle Jay & Aunt Karen Cousins are very proud. In one day they increased their grandchildren, nieces, and nephews from 0 to 4!!

The Virginia Womens Center was well prepared for the births and each child had their own Neonatal Intensive Care Team.

Brady is now home and doing well. His siblings will join him at home soon and they will be one happy family! They have lots of local family and friend support which has been a blessing since they are going back and forth multiple times each day between home and the hospital. Please keep them all in your prayers to come home soon!!



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Patricia Bruce – December 25, 2012, wife to FOBI member George Bruce, mother to FOBI member Joseph Bruce.

Kerry Bruce Fox – September 5, 2012, Former President of Family of Bruce Society in America.

Vincent J. Musso – April 30, 2012 at 97 years of age.

Kevin Bruce - Colorado

Burns Night in Minnesota!!!



From l-r: Bruces – VP Don, Andy, Kathy, Mark, Phyllis, President William, and Lori & Ken Monson.

The Bruces were well represented on Burns Night at the Minnesota St. Andrews Society.



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:

California – Robert Bruce

Massachusetts – Philip Juels

New York – Jacquelyn Familant

NEW LIFE MEMBER:

Tennessee – Lance Bracy

NEW MEMBERS TO THE NINETYS CLUB – Free Dues!!

Eleanor Lorenz

Adrian Ralstin

Georgia King Bruce Rann

ANNUAL MEMBER DUES

**2013 Annual Dues - \$25 payable to
Family of Bruce International, Inc.
By January 1, 2013. Please mail to:**

Polly Bruce Tilford,
5561 Earl Young Rd.,
Bloomington, IN 47408

The Blue Lion is 16 pages; however, the February 2013 issue is 12 pages plus a four page membership roster!

Charitable Operations Committee

The Charitable Operations arm of Family of Bruce International invites members to provide ideas and nominations for charitable giving for 2013.

Thank you to all who have supported our Charitable Donations efforts.

All recommendations for Charitable Donations should be forwarded to:

Don Bruce
1051 Eagle Ridge Trail
Stillwater, MN 55082
don@familyofbruce.org

Since we are a recognized §501(c)(3) corporation for tax purposes, any gift you make to Family of Bruce is fully tax deductible. You can also make a donation in memory of a loved one and their name will be listed on the Tributes and Recognition Page.

Your checks should be sent to our Treasurer, Steven Bruce, at the following address:

FOBI – c/o Steven Bruce
5096 Whites Mill Drive
Gainesville GA 30504

Please note on your check, payable to Family of Bruce International, Inc., and that it is for charitable operations.

**The Deadline for input to the
NEXT ISSUE IS
April 15, 2013**

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

FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMISSIONERS

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The Right Honorable the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, KT, LLD, DLitt, DL, JP
Broomhall, Dunfermline, Scotland

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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 E-Magazine 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 2013

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A four-page membership roster is included with this issue of **THE BLUE LION**

Stirling Castle



In June of 2014, the Stirling Castle area will be bustling with the events to celebrate the 700th Anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn. This picture shows the castle as it is today sitting high on Castle Hill overlooking two great battle fields – Stirling Bridge in 1297 and Bannockburn in 1314. The first records of Stirling Castle date back to 1110. After the battle at Bannockburn, King Robert, ordered the castle to be destroyed to ensure the English could not use it against the Scots again. Most of the current buildings date back to 1500, with major renovations done by James IV. James V continued his father's work and added the

Royal Palace Area. His daughter, Mary Queen of Scots frequently lived there and her son, James VI was baptized at the castle. The Scottish royal family resided at the castle often until the union of the crowns when James VI of Scotland succeeded the English throne as James I King of England. During the 17th & 18th centuries, the castle was used as a military fortress and prison through the Jacobite risings. Recent renovations at the castle have brought it back to its more glorious state and it has earned the status of one of the most desirable places to visit in Britain.