

THE FAMILY OF



An Círean
Ceann Cinnidh

BRUCE

INTERNATIONAL, INC.

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Welcome to the

FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL

We are honored to have you as a member of the Family of Bruce International, Inc. Few families have a more noble and honorable history. We hope your interest in your family name and its place in history has led you to our organization. Our Mission Statement is simple and straight forward:

“Family of Bruce International, Inc. 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 who qualify by surname, by descent, or by recognized septs: Carlysle, Carruthers, Crosbie, Randolph, and Stenhouse. Associate Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the family of Bruce. 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. “

We offer a wonderful place for members of the Family of Bruce to meet and exchange information on their place in our honored family, the roll of their ancestors in their nation’s history, and the part the international family plays in serving mankind. We will assist you in answering questions you may have. As you begin your membership we would like to share with you our answer to the question, What is a Bruce?

BRUCES are people who carry not only the name, but also its history, its heritage, its spirit and its honor in their hearts and in their minds. BRUCES relish their connection to the family and allow that connection to draw them further and further into study, expanding their knowledge and enjoyment. They seek opportunity to share what they have learned with other BRUCES who have yet, for whatever reason, failed to catch the vision.

BRUCES take action to serve the family selflessly and with whatever talents they may have. They do not seek personal honor or acclaim – only the honor of the family and its greater good. It is truly a joyful thing to recognize how many we have in our family who live out this definition. It is indeed our greatest asset, past, present and future. “ WE HAVE BEEN – WE ARE – WE SHALL BE – BRUCE”

Once again, welcome to the Family of Bruce.

FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Serving the members of the Name and Family of Bruce Throughout the World

At 11:07 a.m. on Saturday, July 14, 1984, an historic event took place at Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina.

The Right Honorable, The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, hereditary chief of the Bruce Family, gave his formal consent to the formation of **BRUCE INTERNATIONAL**, a Society for the Members of the Family and Name of Bruce throughout the World.

On Sunday evening, at a family dinner highlighted by the showing of a film, "The Bruces," made in 1974 to commemorate the 650th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, Lord Elgin spoke of his very strong support for the endeavors of the Society and his equally strong feelings regarding the aims and aspirations which it should pursue.

"The Bruces," said Lord Elgin, "are a Family. We were never a Clan in the Highland sense, although many Bruces have married into the Highland Clans." He described the origins of the Family from the earliest records in the estate of Brix, in Brittany, North France. The chief went on to tell of the subsequent invasion of England with the Norman Conquest and the 150 year struggle which led to the establishment of Scotland as an independent country with the finest legal system in the world under Robert Bruce. Lord Elgin said, "We have a fine history, traceable for a 1000 years. There are many branches of the family, but all are Bruces. The principal aim of the society should be to develop interest in the Family and its history, to create a spirit of kinship among its members, and to record with pride the accomplishments of individual Bruces for the next 1000 years."

Lord Elgin summed up our aims when he said, "The Bruce motto '**FUIMUS**' literally translated from the Latin means '**We Have Been**'. You can look forward to the future with the thought that" **We Shall Be.**"

Another truly historic event took place on October 14, 2005, with the encouragement and blessings of Lord Elgin. A joint meeting was held between leaders from "[Bruce International](#)" and "[The Family of Bruce Society in America](#)" (the two major BRUCE organizations), at Stone Mountain Georgia. It was proposed and accepted that the two organizations would formally disband, and form a new united organization, the [FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL](#).

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MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC

NOBLE AND ROYAL ARMS
OF BRUCES INCLUDE



SKELTON



CARRICK



KING OF SCOTS



ANNANDALE



ELGIN & KINCARDINE

FAMILY OF BRUCE



The name of BRUCE originated from the French 'de Brus' or 'de Bruis' in Brix, between Cherbourg and Valognes in Normandy. The first 'Robert de Brus' crossed the channel accompanying William the Conqueror in 1066, acquiring rich lands in Surrey and Dorset. It was his son Robert de Brus, known as 'Robert le Cadet,' that connected the BRUCE family with Scotland. In 1124 when Prince David marched north to reclaim the Scottish crown as King David I, he was accompanied by his companion-in-arms Robert de Brus.



Clackmannan Tower

King David conferred the strategic Lordship of Annandale upon Robert de Bruis. Robert, the 4th Lord of Annandale, cemented ties to the royal family by marrying Isobel, a niece of King William the Lion. It was through this marriage that the Bruce family gained its claim to the Scottish throne.

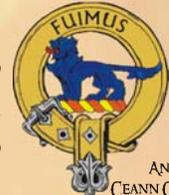
In 1305 Robert the Bruce began the great campaign which he led for 23 years. He was crowned King of Scots in 1306. His great victory at Bannockburn in 1314 insured Scottish freedom. Finally in 1328, the Treaty of Northampton at last gave to Scotland everything for which The Bruce, known as "Good King Robert", had fought.

Through the years Bruces have served the crown and their countries as nobles, diplomats, and explorers. As nobles, Bruces have been Kings, Earls, Lords, and Barons. As diplomats and ambassadors, they have served as Viceroy of India, a Governor General of Canada, and a Prime Minister of Australia. Bruces have led missions to the Emperor of China and negotiated treaties with the United States; a Bruce even rescued the marbles of the Parthenon. James Bruce was a famous explorer of Africa.

The present day chief, Sir Andrew Bruce, is the 11th Earl of Elgin and 15th Earl of Kincardine and Chief of the Name and Family of Bruce.



From their beginning in Normandy in the 11th century, the Bruces rose to become kings of Scotland and great nobles of the realm. No other Scottish family could claim so illustrious an ancestor as Robert the Bruce, and it is to his success against Edward I and Edward II that Scotland owed its independence from English rule.



AN CIREAN
CEANN CINNIDH

AND THE
FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL, INC.

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CHIEF OF THE NAME AND THE FAMILY OF BRUCE

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE EARL OF ELGIN
AND KINCARDINE
KT, CD, DL, JP



LORD ELGIN

Andrew Douglas Alexander Thomas Bruce, 11th Earl of Elgin and 15th Earl of Kincardine, Knight of the Thistle, CD, DL, JP (born 17 February 1924) is the Chief of the Name and Family of Bruce.

Lord Elgin is the eldest son of the 10th Earl of Elgin and 14th Earl of Kincardine and the Hon. Katherine Elizabeth Cochrane, daughter of the 1st Baron Cochrane of Cults. He was educated at Eton and at Balliol College, Oxford. He served in the Scots Guards in World War II and was wounded.

He married Victoria Mary Usher in 1959 and they have five children:

Lady Georgiana Bruce, Charles, Lord Bruce, Hon. Adam Bruce, Lady Antonia Bruce, and Hon. Alexander Bruce.

Lord Elgin succeeded to the earldoms and other titles on the death of his father in 1968. He has held a number of business appointments, including as President of the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society (1975-1994), Chairman of the National Savings Committee for Scotland, Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1980 and 1981, was County Cadet Commandant for Fife from 1952 to 1965, Brigade President for the Boy's Brigade from 1966 to 1985, and Grand Master Mason of Scotland from 1961 to 1965. He has served for many years as the Deputy Grand Master and Governor of the Royal Order of Scotland. His father the 10th Earl also served as Deputy Grand Master and Governor.

Since 1970 Lord Elgin has been Honorary Colonel of the Elgin Regiment (RCAC). He also served as Honorary Colonel of the 153 (Highland) Transport regiment from 1976 to 1986. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1951, was Deputy Lieutenant of Fife 1955-1987, and Lord Lieutenant 1987-1999. He served as a Brigadier in the Royal Company of Archers (the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland), and as Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs.

Lord Elgin was appointed a Knight of the Thistle in 1981, and in the same year was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration. [Source: Thomas Allen Bruce, Lieutenant to the Chief]

These are your people

The Bruces

By Ernest McIntyre

No name is more revered in Scotland than Bruce - not only because it was "The Bruce" that won independence for Scotland at Bannockburn in 1314, but because of the family's world-wide renown as legislators, diplomats and explorers.

Yet Bruces were originally Scandinavians. In the 9th Century, they were among the fierce invaders who ravaged, conquered and settled in that part of Gaul which still owes its name to the wild Northmen - Normandy.

Quick to adopt the French tongue and way of life, they set out from their new home in the same spirit of enterprise to make new conquests in Britain, southern Italy and Sicily.

A contemporary historian records that the Normans were a race which despised their own inheritance in the hope of winning a greater conquest. They were a people altogether unbridled unless held firmly down by the yoke of justice but enduring of toil, hunger and cold, and delighting in all the weapons and garb of war.

No people were ever more eager to adopt from other nations or to take into their service and friendship men of learning and skill and eminence of every kind. This love of imitation is probably why a people who accomplished so much and took over so large a part of Europe has vanished as a separate race.

The first Normans came ashore in Britain with William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Among them was a Robert de Bruis and others of that name which was taken from the village of Bruis between Cherbourg and Vallonges.



King Robert I
King of Scots - Bannockburn

The victorious king gifted the first Robert with many English manors and later the second Robert Bruce, son of the first, received from David I of Scotland, a comrade at the English Court of Henry I, a grant of the Lordship of Annandale.

The eighth Robert, who was destined to become "The Bruce", is believed to have been born at Turnberry, Ayrshire, on July 11, 1274, but is said to have spent his youth at the Court of Edward I where he doubtless would gain knowledge of different claims to "the crown of Scotland."

In 1292, Bruce, then the Scottish Earl of Carrick, swore fealty to Edward I, but nevertheless sided with Sir William Wallace, that other great Scottish patriot, and joined him in harrying England's forces.

However, five years later Bruce was compelled to sign the capitulation of the town of Irvine whereby the Scottish lords were pardoned in return for their allegiance and he took no part in the subsequent short triumph and final defeat of Wallace.



The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, the
37th Chief of the name of Bruce and
the Countess of Elgin

Not yet regarded as an open enemy of the English, Bruce was appointed in 1299 as co-regent of Scotland along with William Lamberton, Bishop of St. Andrews, and John Comyn the younger, another claimant of the Scottish throne.

While keeping quiet for the next four years, Bruce nevertheless had a secret pact with Lamberton which bound him to the patriotic cause and it was then that his contest for the kingdom really began.

Gathering together his large band of adherents, Bruce marched to Scone to be crowned on March 27, 1306, and a few days later was enthroned according to an ancient Celtic ceremony.

He then set out to win his kingdom, a task that involved defeats, being proclaimed an outlaw, excommunication by the Pope. His wife and daughter as English hostages, and his brother executed.

His fortunes changed with the death in 1307 of Edward I who was succeeded by an incompetent son, Edward II. Bruce and his followers were able to establish his power all over Scotland and he held his first parliament at St. Andrews in 1309.



The Warrior King's Statue at Bannockburn



Robert the Bruce was buried here in 1329.

Then followed a four-year campaign to rid Scotland of English-held strongholds and which culminated at Bannockburn on a midsummer day in 1314. Edward had assembled a force of 21,000 to crush Bruce for the last time. Instead, the English were routed by 6000 Scots in a battle which finally confirmed Scotland's independence and Bruce's title of king.

The last part of Bruce's life saw the rising, of the whole Celtic race against the English and Bruce was even offered the Irish crown. He declined but in 1315 his brother Edward went to Ireland at the invitation of the natives and was eventually proclaimed their king before being killed at Dundak in 1318.

Bruce spent the last years of his life at Cardross on the Clyde where he died on June 7, 1329. The cause of his death was most likely a series of complications due to poor nutrition from his many years "on the run". His body was buried at Dunfermline Abbey, his heart at the Abbey of Melrose. True to their kind, Bruces were in later centuries to find their way to Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and American colonies. Bruces of Norse descent were to be found in the Orkneys in the 9th, 10th, and 11th centuries and later spread to other parts of the Northern Isles of Scotland and to the mainland.

As years rolled on, Bruce influence tended to exert itself mainly in central Scotland and particularly in Stirlingshire and Clackmannanshire where Bruces seemed content to settle down as highly respected country lairds, developing their lands for the benefit of themselves and Scotland generally.

The most prominent of these were the Bruces of Clackmannan from whom sprang Bruces of Airth, of Kennet, of Kinnird. of Stenhouse, and of Blairhall and Culross.

Together they became the main branch of the family and were honoured by the creation of three earldoms – Elgin, Kincardine, and Aylesbury (an English title) for their influence was to spread again southwards.

Indeed, Sir Edward Bruce, a senior Scottish judge from 1597-1603 accompanied King James VI of Scotland to England when the latter became King James I of Great Britain and Ireland at the Union of the Crowns in 1603. Sir Edward, who was created Baron Bruce of Kinloss (a Scottish title) in 1604, was virtually the last Scottish Ambassador to England. However, he had become naturalized in the previous year and was appointed Master of the Rolls (a high judicial appointment in England) for life.

His son Edward, who succeeded his father as Lord Bruce of Kinloss in 1910, died in a duel three years later.

The first Earl of Elgin (created 1633) was Thomas, 3rd Lord Kinloss, whose son and successor, Robert, became the first Earl of Aylesbury in 1663, and was Lord Chamberlain, a high officer in the royal household, in 1685.

Charles Bruce, fifth. Earl of Elgin, brought together two branches of the family when he succeeded as 9th Earl of Kincardine in 1740. One of the early Kincardine Bruces, Alexander, the 2nd Earl, became a noted scientist and a founding member of the Royal Society, Britain's oldest scientific body and one of the oldest of its kind in Europe. His membership in the Society was earned by his invention of a clock which had chronometer qualities and he also initiated many advancements at home in Scotland.

He rebuilt Culross Abbey House and campaigned for cleaning up the architectural mess that blighted 16th century Scotland. A strong critic of the Edinburgh of his day with its crowded, unsanitary houses, narrow streets and closes (passages leading to high tenements) and its gangs of thieves and cut-throats, he suggested that an entirely new Capital city, complete with castle, should be built on a new location nearer central Scotland. Some hinted, perhaps unkindly, that he wanted it built near Kincardine.



Charles Bruce
5th Earl of Elgin

Another Culross Bruce was a pioneer Scottish industrialist who was quick to realise the value of exports to his own success and the country's economy generally. Business treaties he negotiated with Europeans benefitted not only his own manufacturers but those of other Scottish traders and earned much badly needed foreign currency. for the Scotland of his day.



James Bruce
of Kinnaird

One of the best known of the Kinnaird Bruces, James - the subject. of a recent article in The Highlander (July/Aug. 1986) - became a traveller and explorer of world renown.

In 1768, after arriving in Alexandria, Egypt, he set out determined to solve the age-old geographical problem concerning the true source of the Nile, which he believed to rise in Abyssinia (now Ethiopia).

After adventurous journeys across deserts and the Red Sea, he arrived at Gondar, then the Abyssinian capital, in 1770. After two years in that country he reached the long-sought source of the Blue Nile. Though admitting that the White Nile was the larger stream, Bruce claimed the Blue Nile was the Nile of the ancients and that he was thus the discoverer of the source.

A Bruce of humbler birth who, had he lived, might well have become a literary genius, was Michael, born the son of a Kinross-shire weaver in 1746. His parents nevertheless made sure he had a good education and he attended four winter sessions at Edinburgh University.

From an early age he was writing poetry, his last and finest work, "Elegy Written in Spring", was completed a year before his death at the age of 21.



THOMAS BRUCE
BY COSWAY
7th Earl of Elgin

Controversy even to this day surrounds Thomas Bruce, 7th Earl of Elgin and 11th of Kincardine who won world renown as a diplomat and art collector in the early 19th Century. Born in 1766, he subsequently became British envoy at Brussels and later at Berlin and at Constantinople.

It was while in Turkey that he got up a scheme for removing from Athens some of the marbles that originally formed statues of deities on the gable end of the Parthenon. Even then, the stones were badly damaged by neglect, vandalism and ill-care. Some of the statues were broken and scattered about.

Although Bruce himself was later to be accused of vandalism, his main purpose was to save the 'stones' for posterity. Collecting then had cost him £50,000, but he received only £36,000 when the marbles were bought for the British nation and deposited in the British Museum.



James Bruce
8th Earl of Elgin

Almost 170 years later, a change of government in Greece brought an official demand for the return of the marbles to the Parthenon. The claim was, and still is, stoutly prosecuted by Melina Mercouri, the Greek Actress and politician who became Minister of Culture and Sciences in Greece in 1981.

So far the British Government and the museum have firmly resisted. If only because the restitution of the marbles would doubtless raise claims from many other countries which, if met, would devastate some of the great museums of the world.

James, who succeeded his father Thomas as the 8th Earl of Elgin, became a British statesman who did much to strengthen the power of the British Empire in the 19th Century.

At the age of 30, he was Governor of Jamaica where he greatly improved the conditions of the natives and appeased the planters. Two years later he was Governor-General of Canada and although at one time his unpopularity was so low that a mob pelted his carriage in the street, by the time his eight-year term was over he was the most liked man in Canada.

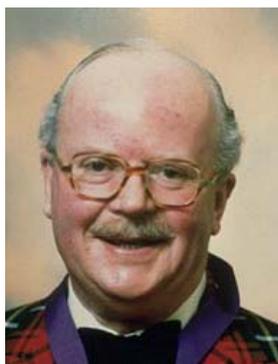
Later service in the Far East saw him smooth out difficulties between Britain and China and he also was responsible for developing British influence in the Japan Empire.

After only a month at home he was appointed Viceroy and Governor-General of India – the first appointment of a viceroy by the British Crown. He died in 1863 while engaged in a "little war" on the Peshawar border. James' son, Victor Alexander Bruce, not only succeeded his father as 9th Earl but also as Viceroy of India from 1894-99. After returning to Britain he became Secretary of State for the Colonies.



VICTOR A. BRUCE
9th Earl of Elgin

The 10th Earl, Edward James, son of Victor Alexander, devoted the greater part of his life to promoting Scotland's well-being, taking a leading role in local government, industry and development, broadcasting and agriculture.



Andrew D. Bruce
11th Earl of Elgin

He was succeeded on his death in 1968 by his eldest son, Andrew Douglas Alexander Thomas Bruce, the 11th Earl and 37th Chief of the Name of Bruce.

Like his father, the 11th Earl plays a prominent part in the business and public life of Scotland and has traveled extensively abroad to promote the interests of Scottish clans and the Family of Bruce.

Many Bruces of humbler birth have shown that they still retain the tenacity and skills of their Norsemen ancestors by winning distinction in all walks of life and in working to improve the lot of their fellow men.

- Text is reprinted from 'The Highlander' -

These are your people

THE BRUCES – THE NEXT GENERATIONS

The future Chiefs of the Family are also very active and extremely busy representing the family. Charles Edward Bruce is the eldest son of the 11th Earl of Elgin and Kincardine. Charles, Lord Bruce represents the Chief and the Family at many **700th Anniversary** events in Scotland as well as internationally. Lord Bruce's eldest son, James, The Master of Bruce, also traveled to the United States in 2006 as the honored guest at the Williamsburg Highland Games. As Scotland and the Bruce Family joined together in celebrating the 700th Anniversary of the Life of Good King Robert I, all three generations of Bruce leaders continue to represent Scotland and the Name of Bruce well.

Lord Bruce and Lady Bruce reside at The Abbey House in Culross, Fife with their five children. He was educated at Eton College (1974-79), and at the University of St. Andrews (1980-84) where he earned a Masters Degree (Hons) in Economic & Social History. In addition to representing the family, Lord Bruce has an impressive list of accomplishments and involvements with various organizations including Chairman of the National Galleries of Scotland, Patrons governing board; Trustee for the Historic Scotland Foundation; Director of the Scottish Lime Centre Trust Ltd; Director of the Ashra Group Ltd (Environmental Consultants); Director for the Environmental Trust for Scotland, Ltd; and Director for Canadian Friends of Scotland Foundation.

Other appointments include serving as a Page of Honour to HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother (1975-77); Member of the Queen's bodyguard for Scotland (Royal Company of Archers); HM Deputy Lieutenant, County of Fife; Hon. Major 31 Combat Engineer Regiment (The Elgins), Canadian Forces; and an Hon. Officer, 78th Fraser Highlanders. Lord Bruce is also the Hon. President of The St. Andrew Society, President of the Dunfermline United Burns Club, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries Scotland.



Above ; Charles, Lord Bruce with James, The Master of Bruce take part in the ceremonies commemorating the 700th Anniversary of the Coronation of Robert the Bruce as King of Scots on Moot Hill at Scone Palace.

Lord Bruce is holding the Great Sword of King Robert.



Above: Lord Bruce Reviews the Parade of the Clans at Williamsburg, VA September 30, 2006



Above: Lord Bruce at Balmoral Reception in Williamsburg. William Bruce carrying Lord Bruce's Armorial Banner and Polly Tilford Piping.

Right: Charles, Lord Bruce; James-The Master of Bruce; Richard Bruce with Lord Bruce's Armorial Banner; and William Bruce carrying the Bruce Sword



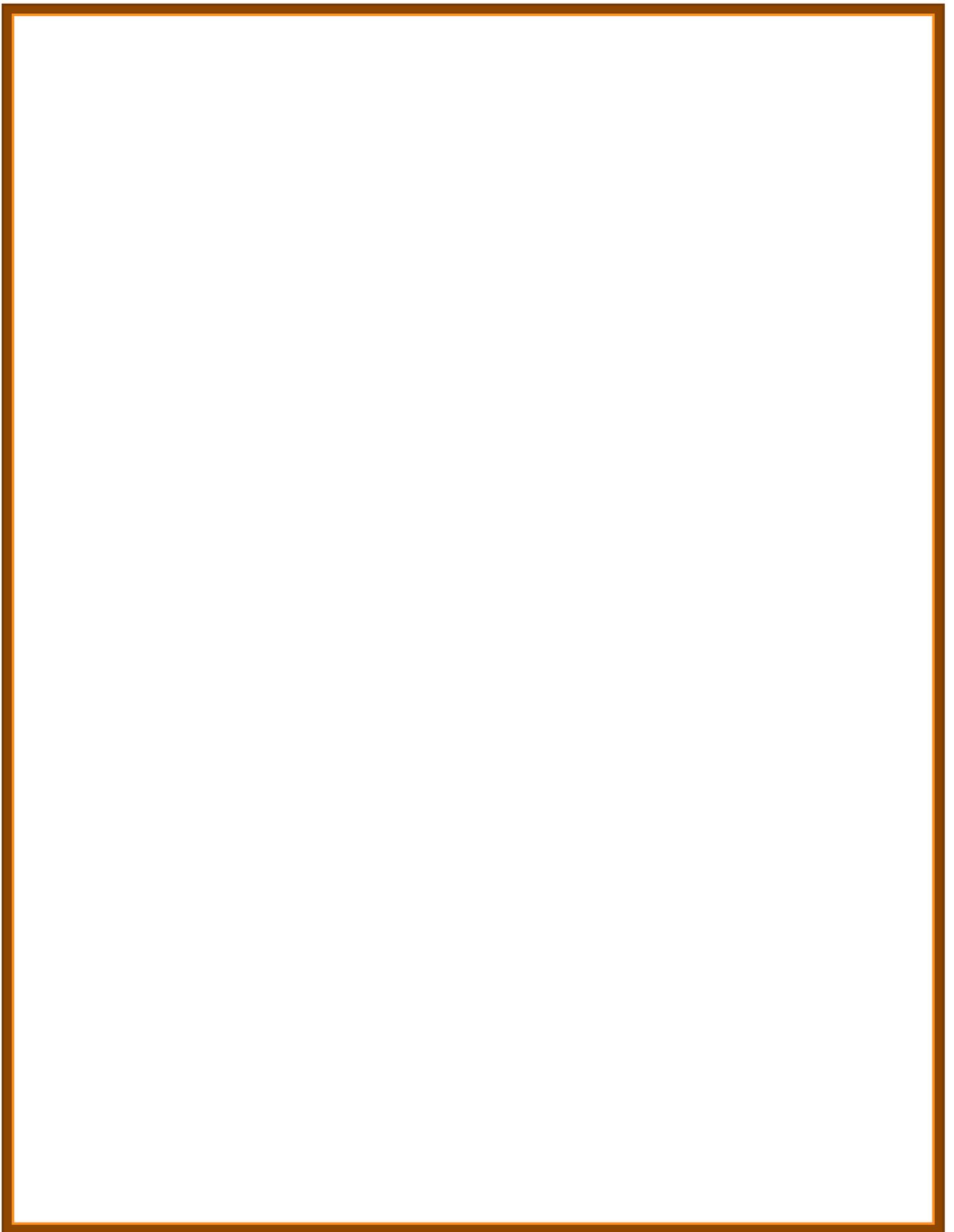
FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL, INC.

1. A subscription to "THE BLUE LION", our sixteen page national newsletter, published at least three times per year. You may opt to receive a black & white printed version sent by regular mail, or an all color version sent by e-mail which may be read on your computer screen or downloaded to your printer.
2. A welcome packet containing further information concerning your new membership, family history, and ways for you to become more involved in our family organization.
3. Access to our web site – www.familyofbruceinternational.org – where you will find further information about our family organization, our history, genealogy, and much more. You will have access to a "members only" forum.
4. An open invitation to come to Stone Mountain, Georgia, each October to join us for our annual Family Gathering and Annual General Meeting, to meet and get to know your Bruce kin from all over the United States. This event is held in conjunction with the "Stone Mountain Highland Games" – see – www.smhg.org – one of the largest gathering of Scots anywhere in the world.
5. The opportunity to participate in local/regional games and other events as a representative of the Family of Bruce. Contact your regional/state commissioner for further information about helping to set up and/or staff a hospitality tent/booth at Scottish events in your area.
6. We are also ready and able to assist you in learning about your Bruce heritage. We will be pleased to place you in contact with one or more members who will be able to advise/assist you in a wide variety of interests including, but not limited to, traditional Scottish clothing, tartans, genealogy, Scottish history, family history, Scottish music, Scottish dancing, Scottish travel, Scottish dogs, Scottish literature, and so very much more.
7. We also have available for purchase, a variety of family related products including t-shirts, other clothing items, badges, books, DVD's, etc. in which you may be interested. See your most recent "Blue Lion" for a listing of what is currently available.
8. Once each year you will receive a "Membership Roster" which includes contact information for all FOBI members. This is for member use only – enabling you to contact other members in your area and around the world.
9. With your new membership you will receive a "Bruce Badge". This is a 3" round badge with the words "Family Of BRUCE" in white lettering over a Bruce tartan background, which we hope you will wear to Scottish events in your area. Additional badges are available on request at very modest cost.

All of the above is great, BUT ---

The very best benefit of all is the opportunity to meet and get to know your Bruce kin from all over the United States, and sometimes from around the world. We cannot force you to take advantage of this benefit. It will take some initiative on your part. I can promise you a warm welcome. **Thank you for joining the Family of Bruce International, Inc.**

We Have Been – We Are – We Shall Be – **Bruce**



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The Steps To The Empty Throne (1969)

The Path Of The Hero King (1970)

The Price Of The King's Peace (1971)

Bruce, Charles Randolph and Carolyn Hale, *The Rebel King*. This series currently includes:

Rebel King - Hammer of the Scots (2003)

Rebel King - The Harships (2004)

Rebel King - Bannok Burn (2006)

INTERNET SITES OF INTEREST

www.familyofbruceinternational.org

www.broomhallhouse.com

www.historicenvironment.scot

www.bruce-trust.co.uk

www.stirlingcastle.scot

www.historyscotland.com/articles/travel/robert-the-bruce-trail-map-from-the-bruce-trust

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