

THE

BLUE LION



VOL. 29 ISSUE 1

An **E-MAGAZINE** published for and by
THE FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL, INC. USA.

FEBRUARY 2023

700th Anniversary The Battle of Byland – King Robert’s forgotten victory



Adam Bruce, representing his father, the Earl of Elgin

On 14 October 1322, a Scottish army commanded by King Robert the Bruce won a spectacular victory on the heights of Sutton Bank in North Yorkshire, overwhelming their English foes, who thought by commanding the high ground that they would be impregnable from attack. Instead, the Scots outflanked the English and their cavalry, under the command of Walter Stewart, and almost captured King Edward II at his headquarters at Rievaulx Abbey.

Byland was the final victory in the field for King Robert. The war of independence dragged on for a few more years until his kingship was confirmed in 1328.

Seven hundred years later the North York Moors National Park has installed a memorial cairn and a new trail to mark the battle. Author Harry Pearson, who has written an account of the battle, was joined by Adam Bruce, acting for his father, the Earl of Elgin, chief of the Bruce family, to unveil the memorial.

Printed from the Broomhall House Blog

<https://www.broomhallhouse.com/2022/11/the-battle-o>



DEAR FAMILY —

Here it is, already February of 2023! Our winter should be at least half over by now, but the first half has been a doozy! By January 19 we had had over 56 inches of snow, which is more than we typically get in an entire winter. We also had about an inch of rain in the beginning of January and it is raining again today as I write this. The photo below is a selfie I took on February 13 to give you an idea of the snow cover here. And that was taken after quite a bit of melting. My roof had been completely covered. However, as always, we will survive!



The Scottish game season is already underway and games have started in the warmer parts of the country, particularly Florida. We do expect that we will have a full games calendar again this year as the world gets more and more back to normal. On Saturday, February 11, the Board hosted a Zoom meeting with Commissioners and Games Hosts to get ready for the coming year. Attendance at the meeting was great and attendees are enthusiastic to get back to games. I know I speak for all of them that they would love to see members come out and greet them, and even better, volunteer to help out. Hosting a games is lots of work, but it is rewarding and so much fun. Elsewhere in this issue, you will find what is hopefully a complete listing of games that FOBI will be represented at this year. Look for one near you and plan to attend!

Planning for Scotland 2024 continues, and it is starting to shape up. We now can tell you confirmed dates of June 11 through June 15, 2024. Daily activities are still being sorted, but we know

they will include visits to Clackmannan, Stirling, Bannockburn, Dunfermline Abbey, Edinburgh Castle, and more. One of the days will be spent at Broomhall, where we will hold our AGM, tour Broomhall, celebrate the Chief's 100th birthday, and attend a reception hosted by Lord and Lady Elgin. More details will be coming as we progress, but I can guarantee you, it will be a grand adventure.

I have been occupying my time during this winter doing genealogical research. Kathy and I did DNA testing through Ancestry last fall. One of the amazing things we learned was that she has more Scottish blood than I do. Her family had no idea they were Scottish. With the testing I got a subscription to Ancestry.com. I had of course heard of it before, but I had never really gotten into the site. I was absolutely amazed and blown away by all the information that is available there. Through Ancestry I connected with a cousin in South Carolina who has done a huge amount of research on our family. Her mother and my father were double cousins. My grandfather, Robert C. Bruce's sister married my grandmother, Grace Robertson's brother, thus the double cousins. So she had done tons of research on both my paternal grandparents' families. I have now learned that my 8th great grandfather, Thomas Bruce, came to Massachusetts from Scotland around 1660-65. So my line of Bruces has been here a long time, and that explains how my Scottish DNA has gotten so diluted over time. But, as I always remind people, I have the NAME! I also have been able to trace back my line to my 19th great grandfather, Thomas Bruce, 1st Baron of Clackmannan. My own research does match my cousin's, so I am more confident of the result. But you cannot be absolutely certain of this, as you have to rely on many others' research. This has been very entertaining to learn all this and finally begin to solve the mystery of where I came from. I just wish my father, who was very interested in genealogy, was here to share it. Until next time!

YOURS AYE,

DON BRUCE, FSA SCOT, PRESIDENT



Colorado St. Andrews Society Tartan Day



Bob, Rachel, and Milo Bruce attend the Tartan Day Saint Andrews Society event at Red Rocks in Colorado

- 54th Annual Dunedin Highland Games Games Host Jacqueline Bruce
- Dill's Celtic Festival – Games Host/PA Commissioner – Steve Cobaugh (NEW EVENT)
- Cheyenne Celtic Festival – Games Host/Colorado Commissioner Bob Bruce
- Celtic Fling & Highland Games – Games Host/PA Commissioner Steve Cobaugh
- Grandfather Mountain Highland Games – Games Host Ginger Garner
- Hammond Historical Museum Scottish Festival – Games Host/NY Commissioner Chip Compton
- Elizabeth Celtic Festival – Games Host/Colorado Commissioner Bob Bruce
- Monterey Scottish Games and Celtic Festival – Games Host – Gayle Bruce
- Colorado Scottish Festival – Games Host/Colorado Commissioner Bob Bruce
- Central New York Scottish Games – Games Host/NY Commissioner Chip Compton
- Scottish Highland Gathering and Games – Pleasanton – Games Host Gayle Bruce and N California Commissioner Joel Bruce
- Capital District Scottish Games – Games Host/NY Commissioner Chip Compton
- Covenanter Scottish Festival & Highland Games – Games Host/PA Commissioner Steve Cobaugh
- Middle TN Games – Games Host Joseph Ryan Bruce
- Columbus Scottish Festival – Games Host Polly Bruce Tilford
- Oklahoma Scottish Festival – Games Host/Oklahoma Commissioner MarLo Alexander
- Celtic Classic Festival – Games Host/PA Commissioner Steve Cobaugh
- Niagara Celtic Festival – Games Host/NY Commissioner Chip Compton
- Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire in Manheim, PA on October 8-9 Steve Cobaugh
- Stone Mountain Highland Games – Games Host Marty Bruce

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Thank you to all who participated in the 2022 activities and events listed below

Charitable Donations:

- National Trust for Scotland USA as a national clan partner \$250.
- Two Stone Mountain trophies,
3rd Place Athlete of the Day
3rd Place Amateur Athlete of the Day
- 2021 FOBI Scholarship awarded to Kyle Bruce Crow - \$1,000. Paid in 2022.
- Grandfather Mountain Highland Games – Highland Echos Sponsorship
- American Scottish Foundation – Wallace Award Sponsorship

Other

- Four Blue Lion issues in February (with member roster), May, August, & November.
- Attended Burns' Suppers in Minnesota

2022 Games Attended

- 38th Annual Southeast Florida Scottish Festival & Highland Games Scottish American Society of South Florida – Games Host Debra Gunn



2023 Family of Bruce International Events – organized by date

Please check the websites for specific games before you attend to ensure the games are still on!!!

Scottish Society of South Florida

March 4, 2023 Games Host: Debra Gunn
<https://www.sassf.org/> Plantation Heritage Park,
1100 S. Fig Tree Lane, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Ormond Beach Celtic Festival

April 15-16, 2023 Games Host: Eric Harp
<https://www.ormondbeachcelticfestival.com/>
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dill's Celtic Festival – Dill's Tavern

April 21-22, 2023
Games Host: Kim Bruce Leitenberger
<https://www.visitcumberlandvalley.com/event/2023-dills-celtic-fest/48067/>
227 N. Baltimore Street, Dillsburg, PA 17019

Costa Mesa Scottish Fest

May 27-28, 2023 Games Host: Julie Goldsworth
<https://www.scottishfest.com/>
Orange County Fair and Event Center,
Costa Mesa, California

Cheyenne Celtic Festival

June 10-11, 2023
Games Host: Bob Bruce – Colorado Commissioner
<https://www.facebook.com/CelticFestival>
408 S Lions Park Dr, Cheyenne, WY,

Finger Lakes Celtic Festival

May 20, 2023 -
Games Host: Chip Compton – New York
Commissioner 4925 Collet Rd., Farmington,
Mulford, NY <https://flceltic.org/#/>

Celtic Fling

June 24-25, 2023
Games Host: Kim Bruce Leitenberger
<http://www.parenfaire.com/celtic.html>
2775 Lebanon Rd. Manheim, PA 17545

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

July 6-9, 2023 Games Host: Ginger Garner
<https://gmhg.org/> MacRae Meadows, NC

Hammond Historical Museum Scottish Festival – July 8, 2023

Games Host: Chip Compton – New York
Commissioner
<https://www.hammondmuseum.com/scottish-festival.html>
1A North Main St.(Rt 37), Hammond NY

Elizabeth Celtic Festival

July 15-16, 2023
Games Host: Bob Bruce – Colorado Commissioner
<https://www.elizabethcelticfest.org/>
Casey Jones Park, Elizabeth, CO

58th Annual Colorado Scottish Festival

August 6-7 Games Host: Bob Bruce – Colorado
Commissioner <https://scottishgames.org/>
W 24th Ave, Edgewater, CO 80214

Central New York Scottish Games

August 12, 2023
Games Host: Chip Compton – New York
Commissioner <https://cnyscottishgames.org/>
Long Branch Park, Liverpool, NY

Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival

August 25-26, 2023
Games Host: Chip Compton – New York
Commissioner
<https://www.facebook.com/JamestownRegionalCelticFestival/>

Mayville Lakeside Park in Mayville, NY

Capital District Scottish Games
September 2, 2023
Games Host: Chip Compton – New York
Commissioner
<https://scotgames.com/>
Altamont Fairgrounds
129 Grand Street, Altamont NY, 12009

Covenanter Scottish Festival

September 9, 2023
Games Host: Kim Bruce Leitenberger
To be confirmed

Wisconsin Highland Games (tentative)

September 1-3, 2023
Games Hosts: Don Bruce & William Bruce
Current President and President Emeritus
<https://www.wisconsinsscottish.org/>
Waukesha Expo Center
1000 Northview Road (Highway FT)
Waukesha, Wisconsin



157th Scottish Highland Gathering and Games

September 2-3, 2023

Games Host: Gayle Bruce & Rodney Bruce

<https://thescottishgames.com/>

Alameda County Fairgrounds

I-680 Bernal Exit in Pleasanton, CA

Middle Tennessee Highland Games

September 9-10, 2023

Games Host: Joseph Ryan Bruce

<https://www.midtenngames.com/> Sanders Ferry

Park, Hendersonville, Tennessee

Oklahoma Scot Fest **not confirmed**

September 15-17, 2023

Games Host: MarLo Alexander – Oklahoma

Commissioner <https://okscotfest.com/>

Broken Arrow event complex, 21101 E 101st St,

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

Niagra Celtic Festival

September 16-17, 2023

Games Host: Chip Compton – New York

Commissioner <https://niagaraceltic.com/>

Niagara County Fairgrounds, New York

Houston Highland Games & Celtic Festival

September 14, 2023

Games Host: Vizi Caldwell – Texas Commissioner

<https://festivalnet.com/34242/Humble-Texas/EthnFestivals/Houston-Highland-Games-Celtic-Festival>

Humble Civic Center - Expo & Arena Complex

Humble, TX 77338

Stone Mountain Highland Games

October 20-22, 2023

Games Host: Marty Bruce

<http://www.smhg.org/> Stone Mountain Park

1000 Robert E. Lee Blvd

Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Richmond Highland Games

November 4-5, 2023

Games Host: Gerald Cousins – Virginia

Commissioner

<https://rhg.ticketleap.com/hd-2023/> Dorey Park,

2999 Darbytown Rd, Henrico, VA 23231

Charleston Scottish Games

November 4, 2023

Games Host: Kathy Landing

Charleston, SC

46th Central Florida Scottish Highland Games

January 13-14, 2023

Games Host: Eric Harp

Central Winds Park, Winter

Springs, Florida

<https://www.flascot.com/>

This is Florida's biggest Highland Games which has just celebrated its 45th anniversary. It brought in over 90 clans, 20 food vendors and of course multiple Highland wear vendors. This year I was grateful to have several of our members to help with it this year. Marty and Suzanne Bruce from Atlanta and Adam Bruce who is a local to Central Florida. If you want to visit a fantastic games, put this one on your list for next year and perhaps help us out at the FOBI tent..

The Bruces march in the Central Florida Parade with Eric Harp, Adam Bruce, and Marty Bruce



Mount Dora Scottish Highland Festival

February 18, 2023 Games Host: Eric Harp

Elizabeth Evans Park

<https://www.mountdora.com/events/details/11th-annual-scottish-highland-festival-5378>

This unique games is literally in the heart of Mt Dora Florida. The games are held in the middle of this little town that stretches for blocks. It certainly has all the characteristics of any other games with the athletes, vendors and of course Scottish food vendors. But this little city has an eclectic feel of times gone by. If you weren't at these games then you missed a great time and experience. Hope to see you here next year, you won't regret it!!!





Burns Night at the Lowell Inn Stillwater, Minnesota January 28, 2023 By Don Bruce, President

Robert Burns' birthday was celebrated in Minnesota on a very cold night in January at the famous Lowell Inn in Stillwater. The Inn dates back to 1927 and my parents spent their wedding night there in 1943. The dinner was sponsored by the local chapter of the Scottish Knights Templar for the second year in a row. A social hour and dinner were followed by guests reading or performing various Burns poems or songs. I read the Address to the (Absent) Haggis, as the dinner did not include the traditional Scottish dish. Kathy Bruce was not able to attend this year, but I enjoyed the evening with friends, below from left to right, Layton Traver, Nola Walter, Anne Chesin, and myself. You may recognize Layton and Nola as Scottish Fair vendors, doing business as St. Croix Weavers. They attend many of the largest games in the country, including Stone Mountain, Georgia and Pleasanton Californis. They just recently returned from the Central Florida Games. We all had a great time and enjoyed a truly Scottish evening!



Houston Texas Burns Supper

Madeline Bruce and partner Tyler Thompson attend the Houston Area Burns Supper held by The Houston Scottish Rite of Freemasonry on January 28, 2023.



Scottish Society of Greater Bloomington

Robert Burns Supper on 28 January 2023. John Tilford, President, and Helen Caves, which is from the north side of Scotland, delivering the Immortal Memory.





**Happy 99th Birthday
To Lord Elgin
February 17, 2023
From all at FOBI**

**Kyle Bruce Crow – Awarded the
2022 FOBI Scholarship by the
Family of Bruce International
Officers and Board of Directors**

CONGRATULATIONS KYLE!

*Kyle Bruce Crow is a member of FOBI and a
Veterinarian student at the
University of Glasgow, Scotland.
See his report below of his recent
experiences*

Note from Kyle:

I, again, want to thank the Board of the Family of Bruce International along with the wider family for their continued support with the awarding of the Family Scholarship. This last year I have been doing my final year rotations, and extra-mural studies (EMS). Each rotation consists of usually four weeks of specialized learning in a mentored environment. Where EMS is gathering experience and exposure to the profession. For this article I thought it would be best to share some of my experiences over the last year, starting with my travels past the highlands.

There are two interesting facts that I would make you aware of, first is that much of Scotland is filled with small holders who have some cattle and a lot of sheep. The sheep outnumber the people on this island by quite a large margin. The second point is that if you continue to travel north of the mountainous highlands you will get to a flat bit. One of the most northerly points of Scotland without travelling to the isles is called Thurso. I spent a few weeks at the mixed practice in Thurso for some EMS. I travelled across this section of

Scotland going from farm to farm and staying in the practice where the animals were brought to us. I ended up interacting with quite a lot of the people here, who are almost unnaturally friendly in the majority. I gained experience balancing the needs and wants of the farmers with the resources that such a remote location had to offer. The location also brought about much more challenges with wildlife management than I had previously considered. During the time I was there the region was dealing with outbreaks of bird flu, and I saw quite a number of wild birds being brought into the hospital. Even though the T.V. shows might have you believe otherwise, I can from personal experience tell you that most birds brought into the vets are euthanized without a specialist recovery service close by. Speaking of T.V. some of you might be wondering why Thurso sounds familiar, that is because Guy Gordon and the rest of the team are the Highland Vet. It is a rather popular TV show that follows the team, I even had to sign a waiver to possibly appear on an episode while I was there. I learned about how they were increasing the quality of care for the animals in their area, and connected with a lot of the farmers and people. Learning about their lives and livelihoods was an incredible experience. One which I wouldn't encourage most other people to do, unless you like having mud in your hair and various fluids everywhere else.

One of the rotations I was most looking forward to was my exotics rotation. This isn't where I go to new and exotic locations and treat the wild animals found there. I was going about an hour away from Glasgow and treating exotic pets, which means any pet that isn't a dog or a cat, with a well renowned veterinarian who has been pioneering an improvement in exotic veterinary medicine for more than two decades now. I learned about treating various types of lizards, what to look for in the shells of turtles and tortoises, the many ills that



can target the different species of birds, and most importantly I went through a course on emergencies and procedures for smaller rodents. From opossum to rabbits and most everything in between, I got to help remove tumors, detect pain (much harder than most people realize), and observe acupuncture. All while I watched this amazing veterinarian form relationships with her clients that I haven't seen anywhere else. Backed up by an amazingly supportive and knowledgeable team, I was able to work with and learn from them for a month. It was honestly one of the best experiences of my life, interspersed with times of high anxiety. As I have been a part of a few number of emergencies that revolved around our animal patients. As my rotation was drawing to a close my training with veterinary emergencies served me well during a different unexpected emergency, I was the first person to be called while on a train for a human emergency. This is where I can truthfully say that moving and making sure a human is alive is very bizarre for someone trained in a different species. I even voiced that opinion as I looked over at the person's dog and said, "I would be much more comfortable if you were unresponsive". In the end we all made it out, if not ok then at least alive, and upon my arrival at the hospital I was immediately offered a mug of tea.

While this year has so far been one of amazing experiences, high anxiety, stretching my own learning, and struggling to keep my feet in front of each other. I am extremely grateful for the support from The Family and from my family. Hopefully at the conclusion of this academic year will be the last time I will call upon your aid for my studies. Where I will be packing up my home in Scotland and bringing some of the culture and knowledge I have gained here back to California, where I hope to be known as Doctor Kyle.

Well Done Doctor Kyle



Vizi and Sam Caldwell attended the SEWE National Wildlife Art Exposition in Charleston South Carolina, February 19. The formal event was in honor of the 2023 artists. Artist Sam Caldwell chose to wear his Texas Bluebonnet tartan kilt, and of course, had a sgian-dubh tucked into a stocking. Vizi was wearing her ancient Bruce sash, affixed with the Bruce badge pin from her grandfather, Dr. C.B. Bruce Morton II

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

- Polly Dixon of Texas – July 2022
- Connie Waldron of Oregon – March 2022
- Betty Samson of California – May 2022
- Lady Martha Bruce – Lord Elgin's sister – 101 years – January 2023

Sincere apologies for inadvertently listing FOBI member Rick Childers in the November 2022 Flowers of the Forest



Whistling In A Scottish Wind #9: Musings with William

By William P. Bruce, FSA Scot

A SCOTTISH TWIST TO AMERICAN HOLIDAYS

On Christmas Eve of this past year, my wife and I determined that we would attend church services – nothing unusual in that – and that we would go in our tartan outfits – the Bruce modern kilt and charcoal jacket for me and kilted skirt and sash for her. We knew that we would “stand out” from the crowd as there are no other active Scottish heritage persons in our Anglican congregation made up of mostly very young families – we are among the few elderly. To our delight, our Scottish dress was received in very positive fashion, with many encouraging comments, even from children, along with a few perceptive and appropriate questions.

I, of course, understand that Christmas is not an exclusively American holiday. However, bringing something of our Scottish heritage into the American mix is not a common practice. Many of us believe that part of our responsibility as Americans of Scots heritage is to share that heritage with as many others as we can. That means being an American Scot at more than just traditional times such as at our local games or a Burns Night supper. It means finding ways to introduce ourselves at times and places where friends and neighbors can experience that heritage in more familiar settings.

There is nothing more American than the 4th of July. Can we justify putting a Scottish twist on that most traditional American holiday? What could be more fitting than to compare the heroes of American independence with the heroes of Scottish independence? That could cause a bit of

difficulty seeing that there were Scots who were a part of the British Army sent to dissuade American colonists on the independence road. However, if we go back a couple of hundred years further, King Robert himself was in many ways similar to Hamilton, Jefferson and Washington in often striking ways – at least that is the way I see it.

Perhaps Thanksgiving may be the most beloved of holidays here in the USA, even though there are similarly motivated observances other places around the world, particularly Canada. How about serving traditional Scottish dishes as counterpoint to the roast turkey and dressing? Would it be unthinkable to bring a haggis to the table, or to serve shortbreads as part of the desert? I would certainly be thankful for those choices. What about combining aspects of Thanksgiving with the observance of the Feast Day of Saint Andrew (patron of the Scots)? That, according to the Anglican Book of Common Prayer, takes place on November 30th, only five days after the Thanksgiving feast.

The celebration of the New Year offers Americans of Scots heritage opportunity to introduce others to some of the fun and even arcane practices associated with Hogmany in Scotland. I will leave those choices up to you – but there are many.

I have no doubt that each of you could come up with several additional examples suggested by this discussion. As a matter of fact, how about sending some of them to me (by e-mail / address in this edition) and perhaps I can work them into yet another column on the subject.

Blessings – Good Old William – January, 2023



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:

- Arizona – Shawn Carlile
- Canada – Richard Bruce
- Illinois – Monell Servis
- Indiana – Wendy Becher
- New York – Carl Nisser
- Ohio – Gary Long
- Oklahoma – Lisa Hatchett
- Oregon – Andrea Summerlin
- Portugal – Sam Bruce
- Tennessee – Roy Pruitt
- Texas – Shari Bruce and Michael Carlisle

New Life Members:

- Arizona – Shawn Carlile
- California – Betsy Samson-Andrews
- Canada – Richard Bruce
- Illinois – Paula Muehlfelt
- New Mexico – John Glynn
- Portugal – Sam Bruce
- Pennsylvania – Kimberley Bruce

2023 Annual Member \$25.00 Fee Reminder...

Due –January 1, 2023

Send a check made out to
Family of Bruce International

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

Or

PayPal –

familyofbruceinternational@gmail.com

**THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE SENT IN
THEIR DUES!!!!**

A Joint Zoom meeting with FOBI Board, Commissioners, and Games Hosts on February 11, 2023

Meeting Purpose – Don Bruce - bring together those members who represent FOBI at events and to plan for 2023

Membership – Polly Bruce Tilford reported as of 2/11/23 there are 352 members of FOBI. There are new membership badges!

Treasury – Deb Bruce Gottlieb communicated that to be reimbursed for games/events, send an email ahead of time to deb.gottlieb@bellsouth.net with cost of games.

Blue Lion Articles – the editor, Deb Bruce Gottlieb, is always interested in publishing family stories and history. Lord Elgin has a keen interest in reading about how our members' families emigrated from the Auld Country. Send your stories to deb.gottlieb@bellsouth.net!

Website – webmaster, Robert Bruce will publish on the website any photos you have of games, etc. send to familyofbruceinternational@gmail.com. Artwork for games is available for use on the website.

Games Materials and Displays – What do you dislike, what can we help you with? There are several heralds in the Family of Bruce including Adam Bruce, Alastair Bruce, and Elizabeth Bruce Roads so the correct use of heraldry in our displays is important. Some ideas for games hosting included the book marks and spider rings used to give out to children at the Stone Mountain Games... this was a big hit! Many games provide children with a Passport to have Clan Stamps, This is a good way for children and their families to visit the tents. Debra Gunn in S. Florida encourages children to bring by their stamped passports to the Bruce tent to get beads! Good idea! Stephen Cobaugh has offered to share his poster artwork for displays at the tent. All games hosts would have received this. These will need to be ordered by April 23 for this year.

Scotland 2024 – See Don's president's letter... Page 2

Other – Use the Getting to Know FOBI Q&A document to understand our common message! A copy of it is on the website.



CHIEF

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

FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.

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

Webmaster – Robert J. Bruce, FSA Scot

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 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 and Family 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.*



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Why is the Unicorn Scotland’s National Animal?



Mary, Queen of Scots’ coat of arms at Falkland Palace

Unicorns have featured in many cultures going as far back as the classical age, including the ancient Babylonians and the Indus civilization. With its white horse-like body and single spiraling horn, the unicorn is a symbol of purity, innocence and power in Celtic mythology. Legend also tells that their horns can purify poisoned water, such is the strength of their healing power. These proud, untamable creatures are fiercely independent and famously difficult to capture or conquer, which will sound familiar to anyone who has read their Scottish history. Even though unicorns are mythological, Scots have always felt drawn to what they represent.

When did Scotland adopt the unicorn?

The answer to that question lies in heraldry – the age-old practice of designing and displaying coats of arms or crests to distinguish between groups of people, armies or institutions. Using heraldry as our guide, we can see that the unicorn was first introduced to the royal coat of arms of Scotland around the mid-1500s.

Prior to the Union of the Crowns in 1603, our coat of arms was supported by two unicorns. However, when King James VI of Scotland also became James I of England, he replaced one of the unicorns with the national animal of England, the lion, as a display of unity between the two countries. Of course, folklore fans will know that lions and unicorns have always been enemies, locked in a battle for the title of ‘king of beasts’.

An interesting thing to note is that Scottish unicorns in heraldry are always shown with gold chains wrapped around them. Why? Although we don’t know for sure, it’s believed that this was a way of showing the power of Scottish kings – that only they had the strength to tame the untamable.

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/the-unicorn-scotlands-national-animal>