

# James Stewart, 5th High Steward of Scotland

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**James, 5th High Steward of Scotland** (died 16 July 1309) was High Steward of Scotland and a Guardian of Scotland during the First Interregnum.

## Contents

- 1 Birth and ancestry
- 2 Early years
- 3 Marriage and children
- 4 Later years and death
- 5 Notes

## Birth and ancestry

James was a son of Alexander Stewart, 4th High Steward of Scotland; the identity of Alexander's wife is unknown.<sup>[1]</sup>

The date of his birth is not certainly known and some sources have placed it, on no good evidence, as early as 1243. This is now thought to be unlikely. Firstly, James's father is known to have planned a pilgrimage to the shrine of Saint James of Compostella in 1252 or after, so that James would probably have been born after this. Secondly, James's Christian name was an unusual one, uncommon in Scotland in the 13th century and not a traditional name in the Stewart family where Walter and Alan were favoured. It is therefore quite possible that he was not Alexander's eldest son, but rather the eldest surviving son. For these reasons, and also the fact of his son and successor Walter Stewart being described as a "beardless lad" around 1314 in John Barbour's *The Brus*, it is proposed that James was born around 1260.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Early years

In 1286 James was chosen as one of the six Guardians of Scotland. He subsequently submitted to King Edward I of England on 9 July 1297, and was one of the auditors for the competitor, Robert Bruce, 5th Lord of Annandale. However, during the Wars of Scottish Independence he joined Sir William Wallace. After Wallace's defeat at the Battle of Falkirk in 1298, he gave his support<sup>[citation needed]</sup> to Robert Bruce, later King Robert I of Scotland, grandson of the competitor.

## Marriage and children

James, 5th High Steward, was either married to Cecilia, daughter of Patrick de Dunbar, 7th Earl of Dunbar & March,<sup>[3][4]</sup> or Gilles de Burgh, daughter of Walter de Burgh, 1st Earl of Ulster.<sup>[5]</sup> By one of these ladies he had issue:

- Walter, 6th High Steward (1293–1326) who married King Robert I's daughter, Marjorie Bruce.<sup>[3]</sup>

### James Stewart

5th High Steward of Scotland



Steward Coat of Arms

<b>Noble family</b>	House of Stuart
<b>Father</b>	Alexander Stewart, 4th High Steward of Scotland
<b>Born</b>	c. 1260
<b>Died</b>	16 July 1309

- Sir John, killed 14 October 1318 at the battle of Dundalk.<sup>[3]</sup>
- Sir Andrew,<sup>[6]</sup> “younger son”<sup>[7][8]</sup>
- Sir James Stewart of Durisdeer, Tutor to his nephew, the future King Robert II of Scotland, in 1327.<sup>[3]</sup>
- Egidia Stewart, who married Sir Alexander de Menzies, of Durisdeer.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Later years and death

In 1302, with six other ambassadors including John Comyn, Earl of Buchan, he was sent to solicit the aid of the French king against Edward, to whom he was once again compelled to swear fealty at Lanercost on 23 October 1306. To render his oath if possible secure, it was taken upon the two crosses of Scotland most esteemed for their sanctity, on the consecrated host, the holy gospels, and certain relics of saints. He also agreed to submit to instant excommunication if he should break his allegiance to Edward. Convinced that his faith was to his country in spite of all, he once again took up the Scottish patriotic cause and died in the service of The Bruce in 1309.<sup>[9]</sup>

Peerage of Scotland		
Preceded by <b>Alexander Stewart</b>	<b>High Steward of Scotland</b> 1283–1309	Succeeded by <b>Walter Stewart</b>

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> ^ MacEwen, Andrew B. W. (2011), “The wives of Sir James the Steward (d.1309)” (<http://fmg.ac/Users/Journal03-05/Steward.pdf>) (pdf), *Foundations* (Foundation for Medieval Genealogy) **5** (5): 391.
- <sup>2</sup> ^ Barrow, G. W. S.; Royan, Ann (1985), “James, Fifth Stewart of Scotland, 1260(?)–1309”, in Stringer, Keith, *Essays on the Nobility of Medieval Scotland*, Edinburgh: John Donald, pp. 166–167, ISBN 1-904607-45-4.
- <sup>3</sup> ^ *a b c d e* Simpson, David, *The Genealogical and Chronological History of the Stuarts*, Edinburgh, 1713
- <sup>4</sup> ^ Burke, Messrs., John and John Bernard, *The Royal Families of England Scotland and Wales, with Their Descendants* etc., London, 1851, volume 2, page xlvi.
- <sup>5</sup> ^ *Cal.Doc Scot.* vol ii, no 847. It appears more likely that the Earl of Ulster’s daughter was his spouse given the name of his daughter (<http://www.archive.org/stream/calendarofdocume02grea#page/222/mode/2up>)
- <sup>6</sup> ^ Burke, Messrs., John and John Bernard, *The Royal Families of England Scotland and Wales, with Their Descendants*, London, 1851, volume 2, page xlvi.
- <sup>7</sup> ^ Clay, John W., FSA., editor, *The Visitation of Cambridge, 1575 and 1619* by Henery St.George, Richmond Herald, Harleian Society, London, 1897, pps: 7 - 11, where he is described thus: “Andreas Stuard filius capit in uxorem filiam Jacobi Bethe et a Johanne Francor’ Rege militario ringulo condecoratus est”; translation reads: Andrew Stewart younger son, married the daughter of James Bethe (Beith) and was decorated with a military swordbelt by John (II), King of France (‘The Good’, reigned 1350-1364).
- <sup>8</sup> ^ *East Anglian Stewarts* by G.M.S.Lauder-Frost, FSA Scot., in *The Scottish Genealogist*, vol.LI, no.4, December 2004, pps:151-161, ISSN 0300337X (<http://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&q=n2:0300337X>)
- <sup>9</sup> ^ Anderson, William, *The Scottish Nation*, Edinburgh, 1867, vol.ix, p.513.

Retrieved from “[http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=James\\_Stewart,\\_5th\\_High\\_Steward\\_of\\_Scotland&oldid=556067254](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=James_Stewart,_5th_High_Steward_of_Scotland&oldid=556067254)”

Categories: 1260 births | 1309 deaths | House of Stuart | Guardians of Scotland | History of Scotland | People of the Wars of Scottish Independence

- 
- This page was last modified on 21 May 2013 at 07:26.
  - Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may

apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy.  
Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.