

# Robert de Brus, 6th Lord of Annandale

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**Sir Robert VI de Brus** (July 1243 – soon bef. 4 March 1304<sup>[1]</sup>), **6th Lord of Annandale** (dominus vallis Anandie), jure uxoris **Earl of Carrick**<sup>[2]</sup> (1271–1292), Lord of Hartness (<http://www.history.uk.com/articles/index.php?archive=81>), Writtle and Hatfield Broad Oak (Wretele et Hatfeud Regis), was a cross-border lord,<sup>[3]</sup> and participant of the Second Barons' War, Welsh Wars, and First War of Scottish Independence.

Of Scoto-Norman heritage, through his father he was a third-great grandson of David I, as well as claiming Richard (Strongbow) de Clare, 2nd Earl of Pembroke, King of Leinster and Governor of Ireland, and William Marshal, 1st Earl of Pembroke (described as the “best knight that ever lived.”) in addition to Henry I of England amongst his ancestors.

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### Robert de Brus,

*Earl of Carrick, 6th Lord of Annandale, Constable of Carlisle Castle*

**Predecessor** Robert de Brus, 5th Lord of Annandale

#### Issue

- i) Isabel b c1272
- ii) Christina b c1273
- iii) Robert b c1274
- iv) Neil b c1276
- v) Edward b c1279
- vi) Mary b c1282
- vii) Margaret b c1283
- viii) Thomas b c1284
- ix) Alexander b c1285
- x) Elizabeth b c1286
- ix) Matilda/Margery b c1287

**Father** Robert de Brus, 5th Lord of Annandale

**Mother** Isobel of Gloucester and Hertford

**Born** July 1243  
probably Writtle, Essex

**Died** April 1304 (aged 60)

**Burial** Holm Cultram Abbey, Cumberland

## Life

The son and heir of Robert de Brus, 5th Lord of Annandale and Lady Isabella de Clare, daughter of the Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, his birth date is generally accepted, but his place of birth is less certain. It has been speculated that he, rather than his first son, was born on the family estate at Writtle, Essex.<sup>[4][5][6][7].[8]</sup>

Legend tells that the 27-year-old Robert de Brus was a handsome young man participating in the Ninth Crusade. When Adam de Kilconquhar, one of his companions-in-arms, fell in 1270, at Acre, Robert was obliged to travel to tell the sad news to Adam's widow Marjorie of Carrick. The story continues that Marjorie was so taken with the messenger that she had him held captive until he agreed to marry her, which he did in 1271.<sup>[1][9]</sup> However, since the crusade landed in Acre on 9 May 1271, and only started to engage the Muslims in late June, the story and his participation in the Ninth Crusade are generally discounted.<sup>[4][10]</sup>

What is recorded, is that in:

- 1264 He has to ransom his own father, after his capture, along with Henry III, Richard of Cornwall, and Edward I at the Battle of Lewes, Sussex.
- 1271 He marries, without Scottish Royal consent, Marjory, countess of Carrick. As a result she temporarily loses her castle and estates, regained on payment of a fine.<sup>[11]</sup>
- 1274 Jul–Sep He is present, along with Alexander III of Scotland, his Queen Margaret, their children and 100 Scottish lords and knights at the Coronation and accompanying celebrations of Edward I, at the Palace of Westminster.
- 1278 He swears fealty to Edward I, on behalf of Alexander III at Westminster.
  - Accompanies Alexander III to Tewkesbury
- 1281 He is part of the delegation to Guy of Dampierre, Count of Flanders, to arrange the marriage of the Lord Alexander.
- 1282 He participates and is paid for his services in Edward's Conquest of Wales.<sup>[12]</sup>
- 1283 June, he is summoned by writ to Shrewsbury, for the trial of Dafydd ap Gruffydd.
- 1285 Jun 1 – Earl & Countess, at Turnberry, grant the men of Melrose abbey certain freedoms, according to English law.<sup>[13]</sup>
- 1286 He is witness, along with his son Robert, to the grant of the church of Campbeltown to Paisley Abbey.
- 1290 He is party to the Treaty of Birgham.
  - He supports his father's claim to the vacant throne of Scotland, left so on the death of Margaret I of Scotland in 1290. The initial civil proceedings, known as The Great Cause, awarded the Crown to his father's 1st cousin once removed, and rival, John Balliol.
- 1291 He swears fealty to Edward I as overlord of Scotland.
- 1292 His wife Marjorie dies.
  - November, his father, Robert de Brus, 5th Lord of Annandale – the unsuccessful claimant – resigns his Lordship of Annandale, and claim to the throne to him, allegedly to avoid having to swear fealty to John.<sup>[4]</sup> In turn he passes his late wife's Earldom of Carrick, *in fee*, on to his son Robert.
- 1293 January 1 – His warrener at Gt. Baddow, a Richard, is caught poaching venison at Northle.<sup>[13]</sup>
- 1293 He sets sail for Norway, for the marriage of his daughter Isabel to King Eric II of Norway, the father of the late Queen Margaret I of Scotland, son-in-law of King Alexander III, and a candidate of the Great Cause.
- 1294/5 He returns to England.
- 1295 His father dies.
  - 6 Oct, swears fealty to Edward and is made Constable and Keeper of Carlisle Castle, a position his father previously held.<sup>[1]</sup>
  - Refuses a summons to the Scottish host.
    - Annandale is seized, by King John Balliol, and given to John 'The Red' Comyn, Lord of Badenoch.
  - Confirms, to Gisborough Priory, the churches of Annandale and Hart. Witnessed by Walter de Fauconberg and Marmaduke de Thweng.<sup>[13]</sup>
  - Exchanges common pasture, for land held by William of Carlisle at Kinmount.<sup>[13]</sup>
  - Exchanges land in Estfield, for a field adjacent to the prior of Hatfield Regis's manor at Brunesho End Broomshawbury.<sup>[13]</sup>
  - Grants Robert Taper, and his wife Millicent, a messuage in Hatfield Regis, and via a separate grant 5.5 acres (22,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of arable land 1-acre (4,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of meadow, in Hatfield Regis, for 16s annual rent.<sup>[13]</sup>
  - Grants John de Bledelowe, the former lands / tenement of Richard de Cumbes, in Hatfield Regis, for 1d annual rent.<sup>[13]</sup>
  - Alters the terms of a grant to Richard de Fanwreyte, of Folewelleshaleyerde, Montpeliers, Writtle,

- from services to an annual rent. Witnesses includes two of Roberts Cook's at Writtle.<sup>[13]</sup>
- Alters the terms of a grant to Stephen the Tanner, of Folewelleshaleyerde, Montpeliers, Writtle, from services to an annual rent. Witnesses includes two of Roberts Cook's at Writtle.<sup>[13]</sup>
- Alters the terms of a grant to Willam Mayhew, of the tenement Barrieland, Hatfield Regis, to an annual rent of 5s and some services.<sup>[13]</sup>
- 1296 Jan, He is summoned to attend to the King Edward at Salisbury
  - 26 March, his garrison repels an attack, led by John Comyn, the new Lord of Annandale, across the Solway on Carlisle Castle. Robert forces the raiders to retreat back through Annandale to Sweetheart Abbey.
  - 28 April, he again swears fealty to Edward I and fights for Edward, at the Battle of Dunbar Castle.
  - August, with his son Robert he renews the pledge of homage and fealty to Edward, at the 'victory parliament' in Berwick.
  - Edward I denies his claim to the throne and he retires to his estates in Essex.<sup>[4]</sup>
  - 29 August – At Berwick, agrees the dower lands of his widowed step mother, Christina.<sup>[13]</sup>
  - Annandale is re-gained.
  - Marries an Eleanor.
- 1298
  - 7 Jan – Transfers a grant of land at Hatfield Regis, from Walter Arnby to his son William.<sup>[13][14]</sup>
  - 29 May – Grants a John Herolff a half virgate of land in Writtle.<sup>[13][15]</sup>
- 1299
  - 1 February – Rents lands at Hatfield Regis, Essex to a John de Bledelowe, for 4s annual rent.<sup>[13][16]</sup>
  - 4 August – While resident at Writtle, he Rents lands at Hatfield Regis, Essex to a Nicholas de Barenton, for 21s annual rent.<sup>[13][17]</sup>
- 1301 November 26 – Grants, Bunnys in Hatfield Broad Oak and Takeley, to an Edward Thurkyld.<sup>[13][18]</sup>
- After 1301, Enfeoffments Writtle, in part, to a John de Lovetot and his wife Joan.<sup>[19][20]</sup>
- 1304 Easter, dies en route to Annandale and is buried at Holm Cultram Abbey, Cumberland.<sup>[1]</sup>
  - Following his death his Eleanor remarries, before 8 February 1306 (as his 1st wife) Richard Waleys, Lord Waleys, and they had issue. She died shortly before 8 September 1331.<sup>[1]</sup>

Shortly after the Battle of Stirling Bridge (1297), Annandale was laid waste as retaliation to younger Bruce's actions.

Yet, when Edward returned to England after his victory at the Battle of Falkirk, which one source accords to Robert turning the Scottish flank,:<sup>[21]</sup>

Fordun, John "Chronica Gentis Scotorum (Chronicle of the Scottish nation)", 1363, Translated from the Latin text by Felix J. H. Skene. Ed. by William F. Skene. 1872:

CI - Battle of Falkirk. : — In the year 1298, the aforesaid king of England, taking it ill that he and his should be put to so much loss and driven to such straits by William Wallace, gathered together a large army, and, having with him, in his company, some of the nobles of Scotland to help him, invaded Scotland. He was met by the aforesaid William, with the rest of the magnates of that kingdom ; and a desperate battle was fought near Falkirk, on the 22d of July. William was put to flight, not without serious loss both to the lords and to the common people of the Scottish nation. For, on account of the ill-will, begotten of the spring of envy, which the Comyns had conceived towards the said William, they, with their accomplices, forsook the

field, and escaped unhurt. On learning their spiteful deed, the aforesaid William, wishing to save himself and his, hastened to flee by another road. But alas ! through the pride and burning envy of both, the noble Estates (communitas) of Scotland lay wretchedly overthrown throughout hill and dale, mountain and plain. Among these, of the nobles, John Stewart, with his Brendans ; Macduff, of Fife ; and the inhabitants thereof, were utterly cut off. But it is commonly said that Robert of Bruce, — who was afterwards king of Scotland, but then fought on the side of the king of England — was the means of bringing about this victory. For, while the Scots stood invincible in their ranks, and could not be broken by either force or stratagem, this Robert of Bruce went with one line, under Anthony of Bek, by a long road round a hill, and attacked the Scots in the rear ; and thus these, who had stood invincible and impenetrable in front, were craftily overcome in the rear. And it is remarkable that we seldom, if ever, read of the Scots being overcome by the English, unless through the envy of lords, or the treachery and deceit of the natives, taking them over to the other side.

but is almost certainly a calumny since other sources place him in Ayr in open rebellion at the time nor did he make peace with Edward until five years later<sup>[citation needed]</sup>. Annandale and Carrick were excepted from the lordships and lands which he assigned to his followers, the father having not opposed Edward and the son being treated as a waverer whose allegiance might still be retained.

Robert at that time was old and ill, and there are reports that he wished his son to seek peace with Edward. If not his son's actions could jeopardise his own income, which was primarily derived from his holdings south of the border (est. £340 vs £150<sup>[13]</sup>). The elder Bruce would have seen that, if the rebellion failed and his son was against Edward, the son would lose everything, titles, lands, and probably his life.

It was not until 1302 that Robert's son submitted to Edward I. The younger Robert had sided with the Scots since the capture and exile of Balliol. There are many reasons which may have prompted his return to Edward, not the least of which was that the Bruce family may have found it loathsome to continue sacrificing his followers, family and inheritance for King John. There were rumours that John would return with a French army and regain the Scottish throne. Soulis supported his return as did many other nobles, but this would lead to the Bruces losing any chance of gaining the throne themselves. He died in Palestine and was buried at Holm Cultram Abbey.<sup>[8]</sup>

## Family

His first wife was Margery of Carrick, 3rd Countess of Carrick (11 Apr 1254–November 1292), the daughter and heiress of Niall, 2nd Earl of Carrick.<sup>[9]</sup> Carrick was a Gaelic Earldom in Southern Scotland. Its territories contained much of today's Ayrshire and Dumfriesshire. The couple married at Turnberry Castle in 1271 and held the principal seats of Turnberry Castle and Lochmaben.

Their children were:

1. Isabel, married King Eric II of Norway in 1293, d 1358 in Bergen, Norway
2. Christina b c 1273, Seton, East Lothian, married 1) Sir Christopher Seton, 2). Gartnait, Earl of Mar, 1292 in Kildrummy, Aberdeenshire, 3) Sir Andrew Murray, 20 September 1305, d. 1356/7 in Scotland {By her second marriage mother of Domhnall II, Earl of Mar}
3. Robert b 11 July 1274, married 1) Isabella of Mar, 2) Elizabeth de Burgh, d 7 June 1329

4. Neil (Niall or Nigel), taken prisoner at Kildrummie, hanged, drawn and quartered at Berwick-upon-Tweed in September 1306.<sup>[9]</sup>
5. Edward, crowned 2 May 1316, 'King of Ireland'. Killed in battle, 5 October 1318.<sup>[9]</sup> Possible marriage to Isabel, daughter of John de Strathbogie, 9th Earl of Atholl-parents of Alexander Bruce, Earl of Carrick; Edward obtained a dispensation for a marriage to Isabella of Ross, daughter of Uilleam II, Earl of Ross, on 1 June 1317.
6. Mary, married (1) Sir Neil Campbell; (2) Sir Alexander Fraser of Touchfraser and Cowie.
7. Sir Thomas, taken prisoner in Galloway, hanged, drawn and quartered 9 February 1307, Carlisle, Cumberland<sup>[9]</sup>
8. Alexander, hanged, drawn and quartered 9 February 1307, Carlisle, Cumberland
9. Elizabeth Bruce, married Sir William Dishington of Ardross, Fife.
10. Margaret Bruce, married Sir William Carlyle
11. Matilda, married Hugh / Aodh, Earl of Ross, in 1308 Orkney Isles, died after September 1323

He had no children from his second wife Eleanor N (died btw 13 April and 8 September 1331).

## Bruce in fiction

He was portrayed (as a leper) by Ian Bannen in the 1995 film *Braveheart*. *Braveheart* inaccurately portrays Robert de Brus as being involved in the capture of William Wallace in Edinburgh; as noted above Robert de Brus died in 1304 and William Wallace was captured on 3 August 1305 by Sir John de Menteith in Glasgow. {Menteith was a son-in-law to Gartnait, Earl of Mar and Christina Bruce.}

## Ancestry

## Notes

1. <sup>^ a b c d e</sup> Richardson, Douglas, Everingham, Kimball G. "Magna Carta Ancestry: A Study in Colonial and Medieval Families", Genealogical Publishing Com, 2005: p732-3, ISBN 0-8063-1759-0, ISBN 978-0-8063-1759-5 link ([http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=wHZcIRMhSEMC&pg=PA732&lpg=PA732&dq=Robert+de+Brus+VI&source=web&ots=2DwfCp\\_z4J&sig=afuQpsX7\\_XqZ5n0CuIwsVJEae7A&hl=en#PPA732,M1](http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=wHZcIRMhSEMC&pg=PA732&lpg=PA732&dq=Robert+de+Brus+VI&source=web&ots=2DwfCp_z4J&sig=afuQpsX7_XqZ5n0CuIwsVJEae7A&hl=en#PPA732,M1))
2. <sup>^</sup> Dunbar, Sir Alexander H., Bt., *Scottish Kings, a Revised Chronology of Scottish History 1005 – 1625*, Edinburgh, 1899: 126
3. <sup>^</sup> The "Scottish Baronial Research Group", formed in 1969, first defined the term "Cross-Border Lord", to categorise the Anglo-Norman families with holdings on both sides of the border, the list includes the Balliol, Bruce, Ross and Vescy.
4. <sup>^ a b c d</sup> A. A. M. Duncan, 'Brus, Robert (VI) de, earl of Carrick and lord of Annandale (1243–1304)', Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, Sept 2004; online edn, Oct 2008 accessed 29 Nov 2008 (<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/3753>.)
5. <sup>^</sup> Dunbar (1899) p.127, gives Robert The Bruce's birthplace as Writtle, near Chelmsford, Essex.
6. <sup>^</sup> Scottish Kings 1005 - 1625, by Sir Archibald H Dunbar, Bt., Edinburgh, 1899, p.127 (<http://www.archive.org/details/scottishkingsrev00dunbuoft>), where Robert the Bruce's birthplace is given "at Writtle, near Chelmsford in Essex, on the 11th July 1274". Baker, cited above, is also mentioned with other authorities.
7. <sup>^</sup> Geoffrey le Baker's: Chronicon Galfridi le Baker de Swynebroke (<http://www.archive.org/details/chronicongalfrid00bakeuoft>), ed. Edward Maunde Thompson (Oxford, 1889)
8. <sup>^ a b</sup> MacKay 1886.
9. <sup>^ a b c d e</sup> Dunbar, Sir Alexander (1899): 67
10. <sup>^</sup> The contemporary records seem to suggest Robert's father accompanied the Princes Edward and Edmund on the 1270-4 crusade, in lieu of his sons.

11. ^ John Of Fordun's Chronicle Of The Scottish Nation, 1363, translated 1872 Skene, page 299 "Therefore the common belief of the whole country was that she had seized-by force , as it were-this youth for her husband. But when this came to the King Alexander's ears, he took the castle of Turnberry, and made all her other lands and possessions be acknowledged as in his hands; because she had wedded with Robert of Bruce without having consulted his royal majesty. By means of the prayers of friends, however, and by a certain sum of money agreed upon, this Robert gained the King's goodwill, and the whole domain."
12. ^ Prestwich, Michael, (1988,1997) Edward I: 196
13. ^ *abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz* The Brus Family in England and Scotland: 1100–1295, By Ruth Margaret Blakely
14. ^ Essex Records Office – Deed – D/DBa T4/22
15. ^ Essex Records Office – Deed – D/DP T1/1770
16. ^ Essex Records Office – Deed – D/DBa T4/24
17. ^ Essex Records Office – Deed – D/DBa T2/9
18. ^ Essex Records Office – Roll – D/DBa T3/1
19. ^ National Archives, SC 8/95/4727 (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/displaycataloguedetails.asp?CATLN=7&CATID=-4411075>)
20. ^ The Historic Lands of England, p 120, By Bernard Burke, Published Churton, Clayton & Co 1848 (<http://books.google.com/books?id=eswHAAAQAAJ&pg=PA120&dq=writtle+and+bruce>)
21. ^ John of Fordun's *Chronicle of the Scottish nation*

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Preceded by <b>Robert V de Brus</b>	<b>Lord of Annandale</b> 1295–1304	Succeeded by <b>Robert VII de Brus</b>
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