Isabella of Mar

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Isabella of Mar (modern Scottish Gaelic: *Iseabail*) (c. 1277 – 12 December 1296) was the first wife of Robert the Bruce and the grandmother of Robert II of Scotland, founder of the royal House of Stuart. She died before Robert was crowned King of Scots, and never became Queen.

She was the daughter of Domhnall I, Earl of Mar and Helen (or Ellen) of Wales (1246–1295), the illegitimate daughter of Llywelyn ab Iorwerth ("the Great") Prince of Wales; she had previously been the wife of Maol Choluim II, Earl of Fife. Her father was one of the seven guardians of Scotland who believed Robert Bruce to be the rightful King of Scotland. Despite the considerable risks, the Earl of Mar could foresee the advantage of the two families joining in marriage and bearing an heir to the throne, and the marriage of Isabella and Robert was arranged. Mar was the first to sign over the estates of his family to the Bruce.

Isabella was married to Robert at the age of 18 and legend has it that they were much in love. Shortly after their marriage Isabella became pregnant. She had a healthy pregnancy but she died soon after giving birth to a daughter, Marjorie Bruce in 1296. She is buried at Paisley Abbey, Renfrewshire.[2]

Robert married his second wife, Elizabeth de Burgh, six years later. Isabella's daughter Princess Marjorie (died 1316) married Walter Stewart, 6th High Steward of Scotland, and their son became Robert II of Scotland. From him descend the monarchs of the House of Stewart and the later royal families of the United Kingdom.

Ancestry

See also

- Clan Mar

Sources

1. **^** Helen the Younger verch Llewellyn, Countess (http://www.geni.com/people/Helen-verch-Llewellyn/6000000002754410308?through=6000000003446499867)
2. **^** Isobel (Matilda) of Mar, Queen of Scotland (http://www.geni.com/people/Isabella-of-Mar/6000000003446499867).

Isabella of Mar	
Countess of Carrick	
Isabella and Robert I of Scotland as depicted in the 1562 Forman Armorial.	
Spouse	Robert de Brus, Earl of Carrick
Issue	
Marjorie Bruce	
House	Clan Mar
Father	Domhnall I, Earl of Mar
Mother	Elen the Younger ferch Llywelyn[1]
Born	c. 1277 Kildrummy Castle, Aberdeenshire, Scotland
Died	12 December 1296 (aged 18–19) Manor of Cardross, Dunbartonshire (Present Argyll and Bute), Scotland, (Present UK)
Burial	Paisley Abbey

- Felix Skene, editor, *Book of Pluscarden*, 1877
- John of Fordun

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