

Clan BRUCE



ARMS	Or, a saltre and chief Gules, on a canton Argent a lion rampant Azure armed and langued of the Second
CREST	A lion statant Azure armed and langued Gules
MOTTO	Fuimus (We have been)
SUPPORTERS	Two savages wreathed about the head and middle with laurel all Proper
STANDARD	The Arms of the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine in the hoist of two tracts Gules and Or, upon which is depicted the Crest twice along with the Motto 'Fuimus' in letters Or upon a transverse band Sable.
PINSEL	Argent, upon a Wreath Or and Gules the Crest, within a strap of leather Proper buckled an embellished Or inscribed with the Motto 'FUIMUS' in letters Argent, all within a circlet Or fimbriated Vert bearing the title 'Bruce', Earl of Elgin and Kincardine' in letters Gules, the circlet ensigned of an Earl's coronet Proper, and in the fly on Escrol Gules surmounting a sprig of Rosemary Proper, bearing the slogan 'Fuimus' in letters Argent
PLANT BADGE	Rosemary

The name, now inextricable linked with the history of the Scottish nation through its associations with the victor of Bannockburn, was ancient long before that momentous battle. It is believed that Adam de Brus built the castle at Brix between Cherbourg and Valognes in Normandy in the eleventh century, the ruins of which still remain. Robert de Brus followed William the conqueror, Duke of Normandy, to England in 1066, and although he is thought to have died soon after, his sons acquired great possessions in Surrey and Dorset. Another Robert de Brus became a companion-in-arms to Prince David, afterwards David I of Scotland, and followed him when he went north to reign his kingdom in 1124. His loyalties were torn in 1138 when, during the civil war in England between Stephen and Matilda, who claimed to be the rightful heiress, David led a force into England. De Brus could not support his king, and resigned his holdings in Annandale to his second son, Robert, to join the English forces gathering to resist the Scottish invasion. At the Battle of the Standard in 1138, Scottish forces were defeated and de Brus took prisoner his own son, now Lord of the lands of Annandale. He was ultimately returned to Scotland, and to demonstrate his determination to establish his branch of the family in Scotland, he abandoned his father's arms of a red lion on a silver field and assumed the now familiar red saltire. The arms borne by the present chief allude to both elements.

William the Lion confirmed to the son the grant of the lands of Annandale made to his father by David I. Robert, fourth Lord of Annandale, laid the foundation of the royal house of Bruce when he married Isobel, niece of William the Lion. She also brought extensive estates, both in Scotland and England. Princess Isobel's son, another Robert, known as 'the competitor', was at the time named heir to the Scottish crown. However, his claim was challenged by the birth of a son to the daughter of his wife's elder sister, who was married to John Balliol. On the death of Alexander III in 1286, there commenced the contest for the succession to the Crown between Bruce and Balliol. The death of the child heir to the throne, Margaret, the Maid of Norway, in 1290, opened the competition for the succession once more, and to avoid a civil war, the rival claimants asked Edward I of England to act as arbiter. In 1292 Edward found in favor of John Balliol. But Edward was not content to advise on the selection of a new monarch, and asserted a right of overlordship in Scottish affairs. Balliol attempted armed resistance but was decisively defeated at the Battle of Dunbar in 1296. His defeat left the leadership of Scotland in the hands either of the powerful Comyn family or of the Bruces. Robert the Bruce met with John Comyn on February 1306 in the Church of the Minorite Friars at Dumfries. Bruce stabbed his rival in the heart, and his companions dispatched the rest of the Comyn party. Within weeks Robert was crowned king and began a long, hard campaign to make his title a reality, culminating in the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. He set about rebuilding the shattered nation and it is a considerable tribute to his leadership and abilities that he substantially achieved his objectives. In 1370 the first Stewart monarch succeeded to the throne by right of descent from Marjory, Bruce's daughter.

Thomas Truce, who claimed close kinship with the royal house, organized with Robert the Steward (later Robert II) a rising in Kyle against the English in 1334. He received in recompense part of the Crown lands of Clackmannan.

Sir Edward Bruce was made commendator of Kinloss Abbey and appointed a judge in 1597. In 1601 he was appointed a Lord of Parliament with the title of 'Lord Kinloss'. He accompanied James VI to claim his English throne in 1603 and was subsequently appointed to English judicial office as Master of the Rolls. In May 1608 he was granted a barony as Lord Bruce of Kinloss. His son, Thomas, was created first Earl of Elgin in 1633. The fourth Earl died without a male heir and the title passed to a descendent of Sir George Bruce of Carnock. This branch of the family had already been created Earls of Kincardine in 1647, and thus two titles were united.

The seventh Earl of Elgin was the famous diplomat who spent much of his fortune rescuing the marbles of the Parthenon (the Elgin marbles) which were at that time falling into ruin. His son was an eminent diplomat and Governor General of Canada. He led two important missions to the Emper of China. He was viceroy of India, a post also held by the ninth Earl of Elgin from 1894 to 1899. The present chief – the eleventh Earl of Elgin and fifteenth of Kincardine – is prominent in Scottish public affairs and is convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs.

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The Scottish Society of Louisville
PO Box 32248
Louisville, KY 40232-2248



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