

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

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THIS BOOK

One day this week I was watching the history channel on the television, while the stars were digging a site where they were expecting to find the remains of the castle of King Arthur, complete with the room of the famous round table.

This got my attention, and without thinking too much, I bounded to my un-trusted computer and began to look up what I might find about the famous King and his loyal knights . Well, it did not take long to remember that the story was entirely fictional.

If I remember correctly, as a young boy, the future king found a magic sword, stuck inside a large rock, and he was the only one who had ever been able to pull this magic sword from the rock. That was the start of his royal life.

It seems that the story was enhanced by another writer that added to the story with the addition of the fearless knights and the round table. A second writer then added the character of the friendly magician named Merlin, who helped the king out whenever he got into trouble.



HOME AREA OF WILLIAM WALLACE

As long as I was in the computer, looking into a character who was supposed to have been from Scotland, and since that is where the Renfro family is from, I might as well check out the story of William Wallace. Wallace was born in 1270, near Paisley, which is only several miles from Renfrew, in the county of Renfrewshire, Scotland.

Now this really got my attention, because I had just finished writing six Family Tree Books for friends, and had only gone back to the year of 1568 for my own Renfro Family Book, and now I find that William Wallace was from only a few miles from our very own town of Renfrew. The town now seems to be a thriving city of about 20,000 people. I say "people" because I am sure that they are not all Renfrows.

I was able to find that the town was built in 1124. This date far exceeded the 1568 that I was able to find documents in my research into our family tree, which was to Baron James S. Renfrew. This makes me think that if the town was built in 1124, there must have been some Renfrows there to have someone name the town after, right ?

So this book will be a story in words and pictures that will try to go back as far as I went in time. There will be lots of pictures because the area is so beautiful.



KING JAMES I OF SCOTLAND



KING JAMES II OF SCOTLAND

THE RENFREW FAMILY

The Renfrew family tree book started with Baron James Steward Renfrew, Earl of Moray – 1541-1580. James was the son of King James V of Scotland- 1512-1542 and an unknown mistress. Since James was not a legitimate child of the king and Queen, he was not able to inherit the throne, but received the title of Baron.

The king and the Queen had one child , a daughter, named Mary, who assumed the throne as “ Mary, Queen of Scots” at the age of six.

We received the name of Renfrew, because he was either born in the Renfrew castle, for the King was from the House of Stuart. So, we can only think it was because he was born in Renfrew Castle, or the town of Renfrew. This still makes the Renfrew family of royal descent.

The father of King James V , Of Scotland, was King James IV, of Scotland, 1473 – 1513. His father was King James III, of Scotland, 1473 – 1513 His father was King James II, of Scotland, 1415-1488. His father was King James I, of Scotland, 1384-1437. We will stop here because this could go on forever. The Renfro family name goes back to 1290.



KING JAMES III OF SCOTLAND



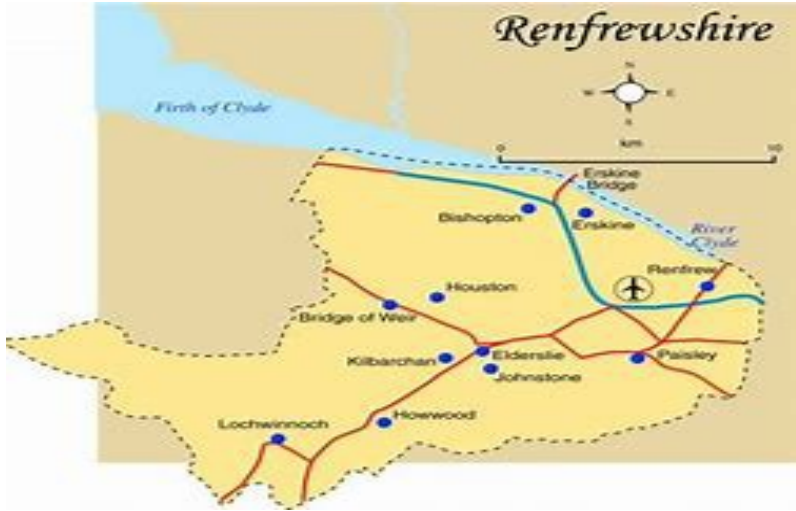
KING JAMES IV OF SCOTLAND



KING JAMES V OF SCOTLAND



BARON JAMES S. RENFREW
(WHERE OUR FAMILY TREE BOOK BEGAN)



THE COUNTY OF RENFREWSHIRE



THE TOWN OF RENFREW

THE TOWN OF RENFREW

The name of Renfrew was first recorded in Scotland in the year 1296. The family gained Royal status in the year 1397. Renfrew Castle was built in the year 1150 by Walter , The Stewart of Scotland. The castle was the birthplace of Robert II in 1316, Robert was the first Stewart King , The Burgh of Renfrew was founded by David I in 1124.

Renfrew Castle was situated at the Royal Burgh of Renfrew. The location was on a river islet know as The Kings Inch. The original castle was replaced in the 19th century with the castle that became the Royal Castle of King Richard II. Both castles were demolished in the 18th century and the location is now bare.

The father of William Wallace, Sir Malcolm Wallace , was a small land owner in the town of Renfrew and I am sure that William Wallace was in the town many times.

But the town remains and is very beautiful. I will show you some of the pictures of the old castles as I think that each one could have been Renfrew Castle.

Images shown are of old castles and other area sites.



SITE OF THE ORIGINAL CASTLE
IN RENFREW , RENFREWSHIRE COUNTY

THE CASTLE

Renfrew castle was situated at the Royal Burg of renfro, Scotland, which is near the confluence of the river Clyde and the river Cart. The original 12th century castle was built by Walter Fitz, Steward of Scotland, upon a river island known as “The Kings Inch”. This was replaced in the 13th century with a new castle by the road to the Clyde Ferry, which became a royal castle under King Robert II. In 1371 King Robert II declared the castle a royal residence. The castle was visited by many monarchs, including King James IV of Scotland. The castle remained a royal residence until the 16th or 17th century.





LOCATION OF RENFREW CASTLE





RENFREW CITY HALL

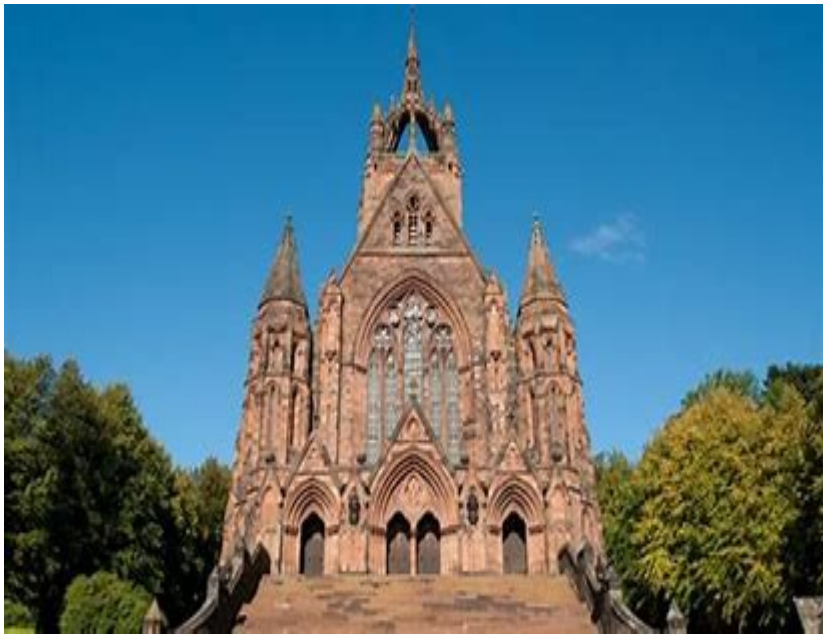








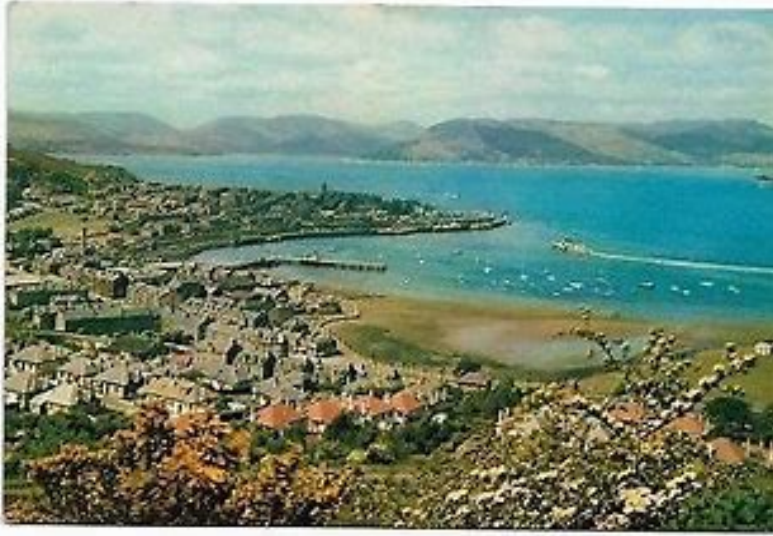














SIR WILLIAM WALLACE

SIR WILLIAM WALLACE STORY

William Wallace is the biggest hero in the history of Scotland. His was the fight of the little man against the cruel rule of the English lords against the Scottish people. He did not win the battle because he was captured and taken back to England for a cruel death. But because of the nature of his torture and the cruelty of the British, the cause of his fight was taken up by the rest of Scotland that led to the end of the English rule of Scotland. While Scotland remains part of the United Kingdom, they now have the right to their own rule. In fact Prince Charles of England now serves and retains the title of Earl of Renfrew. One of the best movies ever produced and directed by Mel Gibson was "Braveheart" and if you have never seen it, you should. We will show some of the images from the movie in this book because this is a story we all should know.



THE TITLE OF SIR

In research for this book, I realized how closely we remain to things and customs of medieval times.

The words Mister and Misiz indicate a position and are only a title. We have all called someone we know or have worked for as Mr. Jones, or maybe Mister Renfro. The word "Sir" was also only a title of honor and respect, and did not indicate a position in government or otherwise.

We have all answered someone who was over us with a "yes sir, no sir" or a "yes ma'am , no ma'am ".

We may have even had someone say to us, "when you speak to me, "Call me Sir".

The word SIR is also a formal English honorific address for men, derived from the word sire, in the high middle ages. SIR is used for men titled Knights of Orders of Chivalry.

THE CROWN

The crown is a traditional form of head adornment worn as a symbol of one's power and dignity. They were used particularly in commonwealth countries as was Scotland, which was and still is a part of the United Kingdom, as an abstract name of the monarchy itself.

Sir William Wallace was a Scottish Knight, as was his father and brother, and had the right to wear the crown that he is shown wearing in the pictures of him in this book.

THE WALLACE FAMILY

William Wallace was born in 1270 in the Lardship of Slreathgryfe in what is now Renfroshire, Scotland, near the town of Renfrew.

He was the son of Sir Malcolm Alan Wallace, Lord of Elderslie and Auchinbothin and Margarle Craufurd. He was a brother to Bailie, Malcolm 2nd, and John Wallace. He was married to Marion Braidfute of Lamington .

He was the father of Elizabeth (Wallace) Baillie.

HIS LIFE

Wallace was one, if not the greatest of Scotland's national heros . He was a permanent member of the Wallace Clan and the leader of the Scottish resistance fighters in the long years and ultimately successful struggle to free Scotland from English rule.

His wife Marion Braidfute was killed by the English Sheriff of Lanark. Wallace found him and killed and dismembered him. This act caused England to send a new Sheriff and speed up the fight to catch William.

He was later captured and sent to London, England, where he received death by being drawn and quartered in 1305.



WALLACE MEMORIALS



WALLACE MEMORIAL



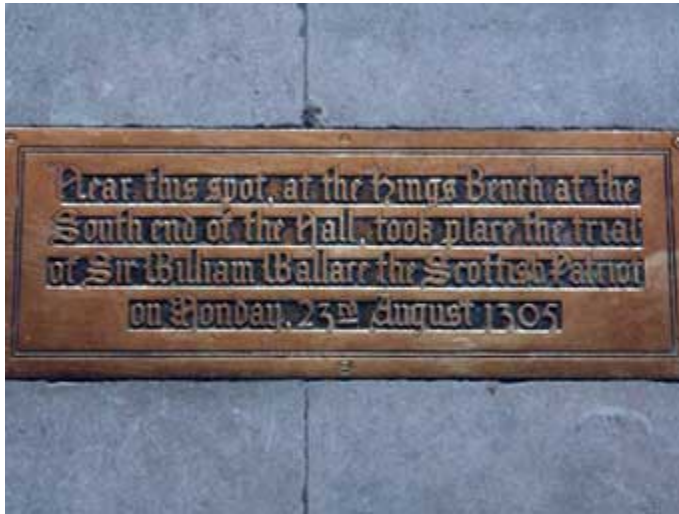
WALLACE MEMORIAL



WALLACE MEMORIAL



WALLACE MEMORIAL



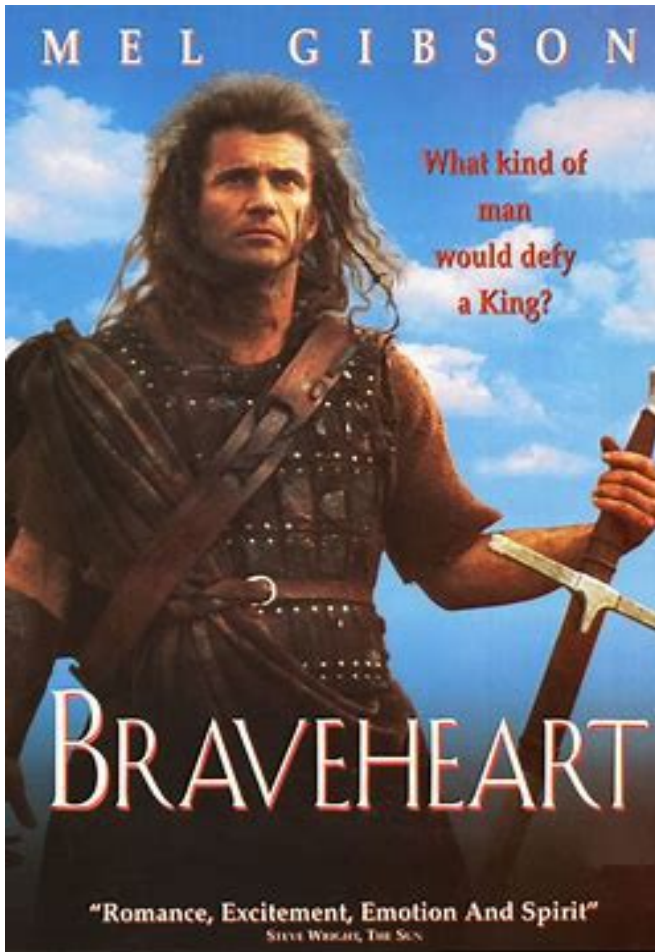
LOCATION OF THE TRIAL



SIR WILLIAM WALLACE



PICTURES FROM THE
WILLIAM WALLACE MOVIE







MEL GIBSON
AS
WILLIAM WALLACE

































SIR WILLIAM WALLACE

