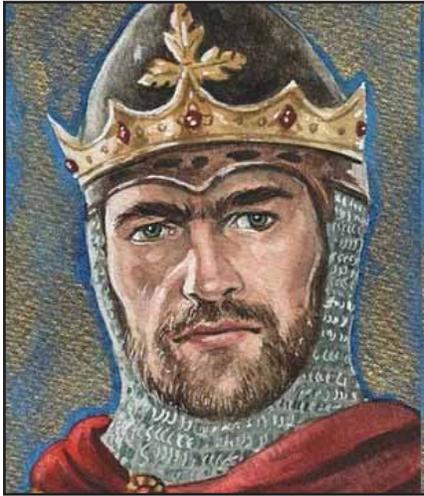


# Robert the Bruce 1274 – 1329

Robert the Bruce, as every school-child knows, was inspired by a spider!

**B**ruce had paid homage to Edward I of England and it is not known why he changed his allegiance later. Maybe it was ambition or a genuine desire to see Scotland independent.



In 1306 in the Greyfriars Church at Dumfries he murdered his only possible rival for the throne, John Comyn, and was excommunicated for this sacrilege. Nevertheless he was crowned King of Scotland a few months later.

Robert the Bruce was defeated in his first two battles against the English, and became a fugitive, hunted by both Comyn's friends and the English. Whilst hiding, despondent, in a room he is said to have watched a spider swing from one rafter to another, time after time, in an attempt to anchor its web. It failed six times, but at the seventh attempt, succeeded. Bruce took this to be an omen and resolved to struggle on.

His decisive victory over Edward II's army at Bannockburn in 1314 finally won the freedom he had struggled for. Bruce was King of Scotland from 1306 – 1329.

Robert the Bruce is buried in Dunfermline Abbey and a cast taken of his skull can be seen in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

-----from Historic UK <http://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofScotland/William-Wallace-Robert-The-Bruce/>

## **The Scotsman website says the legend that Robert the Bruce killed Comyn is a myth. . .**

Myth One of the biggest myths surrounding King Robert is that he killed John III 'Red' Comyn. It is said that they met up at Greyfriars church in Dumfries, where the future King Robert stabbed the Red Comyn to death. Truth Robert Bruce, Earl of Carrick and John 'Red' Comyn had agreed with one another to plot and fight against Edward Longshanks, King of England. This was done with great secrecy as discovery of such a plot would have meant certain death for both men. Robert Bruce was still welcome in the English court at this time and travelled back and forth from Scotland to London regularly. In this period of time there was several correspondence secretly sent to the Red Comyn with plans and arrangements for the freedom of Scotland, which were immediately sent by the Red Comyn to the King of England, betraying Robert the Bruce's trust. In one of Robert the Bruce's visits to London he was confronted by Edward Longshanks about one of these letters. The King asked if this was one of Robert's letters and if he had written it. Robert agrees, saying it is signed with one of his seals, but not the one hanging around his neck... His seal. Lifting the letter from the Kings table in anger he protests to the King that someone was using his other seal and he would find out who the traitor was. Storming out, the Bruce and his entourage head to his manor house in Tottenham where

one hour later they are met by a messenger sent to warn him, showing him a gold coin with the face on King Edward on it and a Spur. The message very clearly telling him to 'hot spur' it out of there. When Longshanks' men arrive at Tottenham, they had missed Robert the Bruce by one hour. Bruce heads to Scotland where he and his entourage come across another messenger with the colours of John Comyn. They pursue the fleeing man and dispatch of him. On his body were other letters written by Robert Bruce addressed to John Comyn but were being sent to Edward Longshanks of England. Traitor! Robert the Bruce arranges for a meeting with John 'Red' Comyn in Greyfriars Church, Dumfries on the 10th February. After a short period of time, tempers flared. The Red Comyn, a very capable Scottish nobleman and Knight and Robert the Bruce, lost their tempers after which Robert the Bruce produced the letters showing the red Comyn's betrayal. After a short fight, Robert the Bruce had been struck across the chest by a sword from one of Comyn's men who was then killed. The only thing saving Bruce's life was the chain mail hiding under his surcoat. The Red Comyn lay stabbed and was being aided to by two monks when Bruce asks; 'How is he?' One monk replies, 'It is a flesh wound, sire.' When asked by his men on how the Red Comyn is he tells them that he only has a flesh wound. Kirkpartick Fleming pushes past the future King and says, 'I'll make sicre.' Returning a few moments later, he holds aloft the severed head of John III 'Red' Comyn. Robert the Bruce proceeds through Scotland to Scone Palace where he is then crowned King of Scots.

Read more at: <http://www.scotsman.com/heritage/people-places/robert-the-bruce-myths-busted-1-4074662>

## Generations from **Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland,** to **Nellie Privette.**

1. Robert I (King of Scotland) BRUCE  
& Isabelle of MAR

Children of Robert the Bruce  
David II King of Scotland

*Marjorie de Bruce*



*Robert the Bruce*  
1274 - 1329

2. Walter (6th High Stewart of Scotland)  
STEWART & **Marjorie DE BRUCE**

3. Robert II (King of Scotland) STEWART  
& Elizabeth Mure

*Elizabeth Mure  
1320 - 1355*



*Robert II 3/2/1316 - 4/19/1390*

4. Robert III (King of Scotland) STEWART  
& Annabella Drummond



*Robert III (c.1337/40 – 4 April 1406), born John Stewart, was King of Scots from 1390 to his death. He was known primarily as John, Earl of Carrick before ascending the throne at the age of 53.*



*Annabella Drummond*

5. George (1st Earl of Angus) DOUGLAS & Mary STEWART
6. Alexander (1st Lord) FORBES  
& Elizabeth DOUGLAS



*Alexander de Forbes  
1380 - 1448*

7. Patrick, Master of GRAY & Annabella FORBES
8. Andrew (2nd Lord) GRAY & Elizabeth STEWART
9. William KEITH & Janet GRAY
10. William FORBES & Elizabeth KEITH
11. George JOHNSTON & Christian FORBES
12. Johne BROCK & Helein JOHNSTON
13. John GEDDY + Christian BROCK
14. Hendri GEDDY b: Abt. 1665 + Unknown
15. THE IMMIGRANT TO AMERICA: William GADDY + Mary  
b: November 01, 1695 in Cupar, County Fife, SCOTLAND.  
d: 1752 in Chesterfield, VA.
16. Sherwood GADDY + Mary Ann Bright
17. Rebecca GADDY + Rev. Thomas O. Barker
18. Rachel Chiles Barker + James Sproles
19. Rachel Sproles + Chester Privet
20. Joseph Privet + Nannie Eads
21. Carson Privette + Fina Lowe
22. Nellie Privette + Herbert Blaylock, Sr.
  
23. ME and my SIBLINGS and OUR PROGENY -- *Judy Blaylock Hubers Kilpatrick*

**M**ary Queen of Scots is our cousin. Our royal ancestors who descend from Robert the Bruce lose the crown after Robert III, King of Scotland, as our ancestor is his daughter, Mary Stewart who married Georgie Douglas, 1st Earl of Angus. It was Robert III's son James I, who married Joan Beaufort, and became the next monarch of Scotland.



*Mary (Stuart) Queen of Scots*

[Click here](#) to view a chart of the descent from Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland, to Charles II, King of Scotland and England.

This chart, along with birth certificates and christening records linking our Washington County, Virginia families with William Geddy, the immigrant, to Hendri Geddy and John Geddy m. Christian Brock indicates, that as long as all children are legitimate, then our genealogy goes back to the Kings of Scotland.

We also have the claim of Gordon Barker of Mendota, Washington County, Virginia to explore, as he indicated that according to family legend, the Barkers of Washington County, Virginia were related to King Charles.\*

\*Notes from Greta Barker Blair:

Rev. Soldier (oldest son) minister of Gospel Bedford VA.

Greta Barker Blair's Article (#161) in "Families of Washington Co. and Bristol, Virginia 1776-1996":

**THOMAS O. BARKER AND REBECCA (GADDY) BARKER**

[In] August 2, 1977 we called at a farm place of Gordon Barker in Mendota, Virginia. There, preserved in an old ledger, were entries made by Gordon's grandfather indicating his lineage - exactly 100 years earlier to the day, earlier. Edmond, (1837-1908), ninth of nine children of Sherwood and wife Rachel (Lark) Barker, wrote August 2, 1877: "Great grandfather and his wife Martha Snead - Joel settled American Bottoms Thomas and his wife Rebecca Gaddy - Charles Barker - John - Susan - Rachel - Betsy - Polly ... My great, great, grandfather Edward was a cousin to King Charles and a teacher in the Presbyterian High School in London. He died a short time after he came to the Colony. Great grandfather, John Barker, he sold his land to a man named Richman and Richmond City was named after him".

## Mary's story. . .

Although the Stuart family had gained the Scottish throne through Marjory (daughter of Robert the Bruce), Mary became Queen only because all male alternatives had been exhausted.

Princess Mary Stuart was born at Linlithgow Palace, Linlithgow, West Lothian, Scotland, on December 7 or December 8, 1542 to King James V of Scotland and his French wife, Marie de Guise. The six-day-old Mary became Queen of Scotland when her father died at the age of thirty. James Hamilton, 2nd Earl of Arran was the next in line for the throne after Mary; he acted as regent for Mary until 1554, when he was succeeded by the Queen's mother, who continued as regent until her death in 1560.

When Mary was only nine months old she was crowned Queen of Scotland in the Chapel Royal at Stirling Castle on September 9, 1543.

Henry VIII then began his “rough wooing” designed to impose the marriage to his son on Mary. This consisted of a series of raids on Scottish territory and other military actions. It lasted until June 1551, costing over half a million pounds and many lives. In May of 1544, the English Earl of Hertford (later created Duke of Somerset by Edward VI) arrived in the Firth of Forth hoping to capture the city of Edinburgh and kidnap Mary, but Marie de Guise hid her in the secret chambers of Stirling Castle. On September 10, 1547, known as “Black Saturday”, the Scots suffered a bitter defeat at the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh. Marie de Guise, fearful for her daughter, sent her temporarily to Inchmahome Priory.

The French King, Henri II, was now proposing to unite France and Scotland by marrying the little Queen to his newborn son, the Dauphin François. On July 7, the French Marriage Treaty was signed at a nunnery near Haddington. With her marriage agreement in place, five-year-old Mary was sent to France in 1548 to spend the next ten years at the French court.

Vivacious, pretty, and clever (according to contemporary accounts), Mary had a promising childhood. While in the French court, she was a favourite. She received the best available education, and at the end of her studies, she had mastered French, Latin, Greek, Spanish and Italian in addition to her native Scots. She also learned how to play two instruments and learned prose, horsemanship, falconry, and needlework.

Under the ordinary laws of succession, Mary was also next in line to the English throne after her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I, who was childless. In the eyes of many Catholics Elizabeth was illegitimate, making Mary the true heir.

François died on December 5, 1560. Mary’s mother-in-law, Catherine de Medici, became regent for the late king’s brother Charles IX, who inherited the French throne. Under the terms of the Treaty of Edinburgh, signed by Mary’s representatives on July 6, 1560 following the death of Marie of Guise, France undertook to withdraw troops from Scotland and recognise Elizabeth’s right to rule England. The eighteen-year-old Mary, still in France, refused to ratify the treaty.

At Holyrood Palace on July 29, 1565, Mary married Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, a descendant of King Henry VII of England and Mary’s first cousin. The union infuriated Elizabeth, who felt she should have been asked permission for the marriage to even take place, as Darnley was an English subject. Elizabeth also felt threatened by the marriage, because Mary’s and Darnley’s Scottish and English royal blood would produce children with extremely strong claims to both Mary’s and Elizabeth’s thrones.

Before long, Mary became pregnant. Darnley became arrogant and demanded power commensurate with his courtesy title of “King”, and on one occasion Darnley attacked Mary and unsuccessfully attempted to cause her to miscarry their unborn child. Darnley was jealous of Mary’s friendship with her private secretary, David Rizzio. On March 9 a group of the lords, accompanied by Darnley, murdered Rizzio in front of Mary while the two were in conference at Holyrood Palace.

Following the birth of their son, James, in 1566, a plot was hatched to remove Darnley. He was

recuperating in a house in Edinburgh. In February 1567, an explosion occurred in the house, and Darnley was found dead in the garden, apparently of strangulation. This event, which should have been Mary's salvation, only harmed her reputation. James Hepburn, 4th Earl of Bothwell, an adventurer who would become her third husband, was generally believed to be guilty of the assassination, and was brought before a mock trial but acquitted.

On April 24 Mary visited her son at Stirling for the last time. On her way back to Edinburgh Mary was abducted by Bothwell and his men and taken to Dunbar Castle. On May 6 they returned to Edinburgh and on May 15, at Holyrood Palace, Mary and Bothwell were married according to Protestant rites.

The Scottish nobility turned against Mary and Bothwell and raised an army against them and imprisoned her in Loch Leven Castle. On May 2, 1568, Mary escaped from Loch Leven and once again managed to raise a small army. After her army's defeat at the Battle of Langside on May 13, she fled to England. When Mary entered England on May 19, she was imprisoned by Elizabeth's officers at Carlisle.

Elizabeth considered Mary's designs on the English throne to be a serious threat, and so eighteen years of confinement followed, much of it in Sheffield Castle.

Mary was put on trial for treason by a court of about 40 noblemen. She was ultimately convicted of treason, and was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle, Northamptonshire on February 8, 1587.

**The Royal lines of Scotland and England dating back to Alfred the Great.**

Dear Virginia-Tennessee Cousins:

I am compiling records of Barker families of Southwest Virginia and Tennessee and would like very much to have information on your heritage.

My father's people were landowners in Washington County, Virginia, dating back into the 1700's. Three Barker brothers fought in the Battle of King's Mountain in the Revolution.

I have made <sup>Tenn-Va. area</sup> 5 trips to ~~your area~~, interviewing descendants of my people and searching records, the most recent being last summer. I am interested to know which family you are from. If you have a family historian, or a member interested in family trees, I would appreciate having the name and address.

I would be so happy if you would fill in your line as far as you know and return this form to me. Any additional information is welcomed.

My line

Your line

1. Greta Barker & Geo. T. Blair <sup>(4th cousins)</sup> Linda Barker & John Cornell
2. C. F. Barker & Ada F. Palmer <sup>(3rd c) <sub>parents</sub></sup> Lloyd Clinton Barker & Helen H. Wood
3. Cam H. Barker & Fairmina Hensley <sup>(3rd c) <sub>parents</sub></sup> Samuel C. Barker & Lena Victoria Ramey
4. Henry Barker & Ellen Baker <sup>(1st cousins)</sup> Flanders M. Barker & Augusta Wright
5. Thos. Barker & Pernalia Newton <sup>(brothers)</sup> James Barker & Mary "Polly" Wood
6. Charles Barker & Kathryn Chiles <sup>3 gr</sup> (b. in Russell/Wash. Co., Va.)  
Same
7. <sup>Revo. Soldier</sup> Thomas Barker & Rebecca Gaddy <sup>4-gr</sup> (of Montgomery, Russell & Wash. Co., Va.)  
Same
8. John Barker & Martha Snead <sup>5-gr</sup> b. in Bedford Co. Va. abt. 1732  
Same
9. Edward Barker (from London) <sup>(b. in England same - d. in America)  
{abt 1698</sup>  
(cousin to King Charles - teacher in  
The Presbyterian Schools of London)  
Came to the colonies & died  
soon thereafter).

Sincerely,  
Greta (Mrs. Geo. T. Blair)  
Greta Barker Blair

Some early Barker descendants indicated that the Barkers lived about 40 miles from London at a place called Tuckahoe. My father told about the Barkers being heirs to a settlement of a large estate in England, but not returning there to make claim. Some also indicated that Thomas Barker (Revolutionary Soldier - one of the King's Mountain men) was born in England. Early Colonial records were destroyed in the War of 1812 & later, records of Va. were burned during the Civil War. Greta Blair 6/1/80



