

Sealant information

Alexander Fraser

Alexander Fraser was born into the Touch-Fraser line of the family but his exact date of birth is unknown.

In autumn 1307, Alexander Fraser swore fealty to Robert the Bruce and accompanied the king on military campaigns in 1307-08. He fought at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. He may have been knighted before the Battle of Bannockburn and the title seems to have first been used in 1315, when Robert Bruce gave lands to his 'beloved and faithful' Alexander Fraser, knight.

In about 1316 Alexander Fraser married Mary Bruce, sister of Robert the Bruce. He had become chamberlain of Scotland, the title being used in a charter dated 10 December 1319. He held this position until at least 5 March 1327.

At the parliament of 1320, he attached his seal to the Declaration of Arbroath.

His other titles included sheriff of Kincardine and sheriff of Stirling, and he held extensive lands north of the Firth of Forth. Alexander Fraser's extensive estates and alliance to the royal family must have made him an influential figure. He fought and died at the Battle of Dupplin on 10-11 August 1332.

Definitions:

Fealty = promise to be loyal

Chamberlain = manager of a royal household

Charter = a legal document that sets out rights or obligations

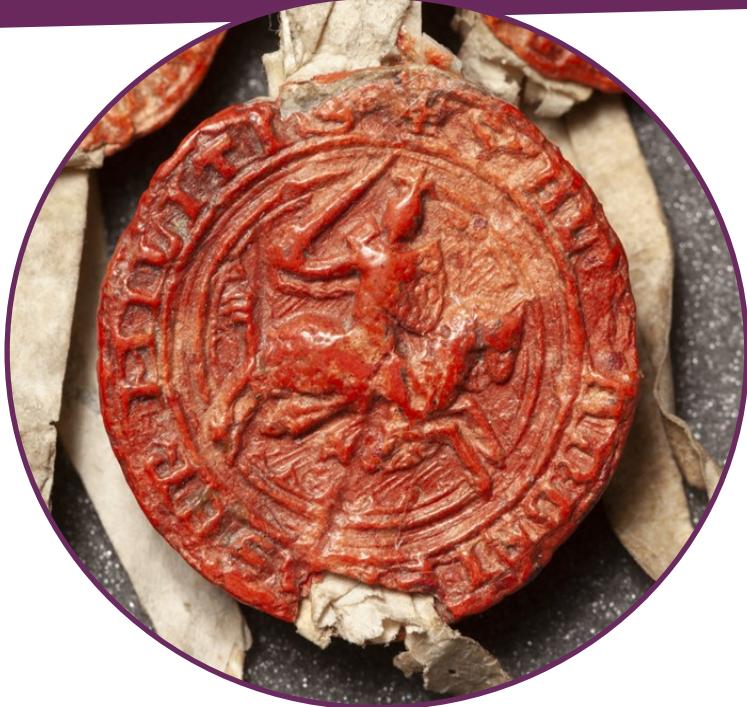


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Sealant information

William Oliphant

Sir William Oliphant of Dupplin and Aberdalgie, attached his seal to the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320.

The earliest reference to him is in a list of prisoners captured at the Battle of Dunbar in 1296.

He was sent to Rochester Castle, then freed in 1297 on condition he serve Edward I in his campaign in France.

William was back in Scotland by 1304 when he was Second-in-Command at the Siege of Stirling. Following the surrender of the garrison, he swore allegiance to Edward I and this is the earliest reference to him as a knight. He was sent to Wallingford Castle where he remained until at least 1306-07 and it is likely that he was in England until 1313 when he was granted safe conduct to Scotland.

William swore allegiance to Robert I, perhaps after Bannockburn. He was present at the parliament of 1320, during which he appended his seal to the Declaration of Arbroath.

He also served as king's escheator in 1329-30. He had extensive lands in Perthshire and Forfarshire, including those acquired through marriage but no definite record of his wife can be found. William Oliphant died on 5 February 1330.

Definitions:

Allegiance = support for, or to be on the side of, a group or person

Escheator = a local official who made sure the King's rights were upheld

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Sealant information

Reginald de Cheyne

Sir Reginald IV Cheyne [le Chen] of Inverugie and of Duffus & Strabrock (1296-1345) was the son of Reginald Cheyne III of Inverugie.

He fought for King John Balliol at the Battle of Dunbar but on 16 May 1296 was taken prisoner by the forces of King Edward I and imprisoned at Kenilworth Castle in England. He was eventually released in an exchange with John de Kalenter in 1299 and returned to Scotland via York and Newcastle.

Whilst his father held an allegiance to King Edward I, adding his seal to the Ragman Roll at Aberdeen on 17 July 1296, Reginald remained a strong supporter of Scottish independence. Although no record can be found of him at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, on 6 April 1320 he added his seal to the Declaration of Arbroath.

In recognition of the support he had been given, on 28 July 1323 Robert [Bruce] I, King of Scots, gifted Reginald the land of Strabrock, which had been previously won by his father.

He continued to fight for Scottish independence, and on 19 July 1333 he fought at the Battle of Halidon Hill. He was again captured and taken prisoner.

Definitions:

Allegiance = support for or be loyal to a group or person

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Sealant information

Patrick, Earl of Dunbar

The individual who set his seal to the Declaration of Arbroath and took part in the Battle of Bannockburn was Patrick Dunbar, Earl of March, the ninth Earl of Dunbar and the fifth Patrick to bear the title.



The ninth earl had been born about 1285 and as a fifteen year old was alongside his father at the siege of Caerlaverock Castle in 1300. After the English defeat at Bannockburn on 24 June 1314, he helped Edward II escape back into England. He afterwards moved across to support the Scots cause and was at the Parliament in Ayr when the issue of succession to the Scots Crown was settled.

He was involved in many cross-border disputes and battles over the years and changed side a couple more times. He married again c. 1320 to "Black" Agnes, daughter of the 1st Earl of Moray. She got a reputation as a heroine after defending Dunbar Castle for 19 weeks against the English, forcing them to withdraw.

Patrick received the Earldom of Moray by right of his wife in 1357/8. He returned his own Earldom of March/Dunbar to the King as both of his sons died before him. The King passed the Earldom on to his great-nephew, George Dunbar on 25 July 1368. Patrick died soon afterwards on 11 November 1368.

Definitions:

succession = right of a person to inherit something

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Sealant information

Malise de Strathearn

Malise, 7th Earl of Strathearn, born between 1275 and 1280, was the son and heir of Malise the 6th Earl of Strathearn and Agnes Comyn. Strathearn was one of the seven original earldoms of Scotland dating back to 1115.



Malise succeeded to the earldom in 1313 after the siege of Perth in 1312. He and his father had fought on opposing sides during the siege: the 6th Earl for the English and his son for the Scots. The 6th Earl, captured by his son Malise during the siege, was then forced by the Scottish king, Robert I, to stand down in favour of his son.

In 1320 Malise, 7th Earl of Strathearn was one of eight earls and thirty barons who 'signed' the Declaration of Arbroath. In the same year Agnes - either his mother or his first wife - was convicted of conspiring to assassinate Robert I, King of Scotland.

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Sealant information

Malcolm, Earl of Lennox

Malcolm (II) was 5th Earl of Lennox. After inheriting his father's title around 1292, Malcolm was involved in an ongoing dispute with the convent and abbey at Paisley over lands they claimed previous earls of Lennox had given in perpetual alms. In a charter dated 22 August 1294, Robert, bishop of Glasgow, threatened excommunication if he did not agree with his ruling to the church's claims.

At first a subject of Edward I, Malcolm was commanded to protect the Forth and the country around it by a charter dated 11 March 1304. He paid homage to the king of England a few days later as summoned on 14 March 1304.

But by 1308 Malcolm was devoutly aligned with Robert the Bruce. This allegiance and service to Robert I, was richly rewarded. In 1309, he received the sheriffdom of Clackmannan and later, the sheriffdom of Dumbarton, along with its castle, in 1321.

Malcolm 'signed' the Declaration of Arbroath on 6 April 1320. The Earl of Lennox's seal is still visible today. His loyalty to Robert's cause brought him to the Battle of Halidon Hill in Northumberland against the English where he was killed on 19 July 1333.

Definitions:

Perpetual alms = a donation or gift that lasts forever / a long time

Charter = a legal document that sets out rights or obligations

Paid homage = an agreement to obey an important person

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Sealant information

Sir Ingram de Umfraville

Ingram de Umfraville was the son of Robert de Umfraville. He is not listed as one of the barons who recognised King Alexander III's granddaughter Margaret as heir to the Scottish throne in 1284.



After Margaret died, he swore fealty to Edward I of England and appears on the Ragman Rolls of 1291 and 1296.

Umfraville was sent to France by Edward I to conclude a Treaty with Philippe IV in 1296 but afterwards he switched allegiance to the Scots. After John Balliol died in 1299, Edward awarded all Umfraville's lands to an English knight, Henry Percy, because Umfraville was now 'the king's enemy and rebel'.

He replaced Robert Bruce as Guardian of Scotland in 1300 and went to Paris to get support for the Scots from the French. He stayed there until the English reconquered Scotland and his lands were given back to him - but he had to pay a large fine.

After the murder of John Comyn he changed allegiance again and was fighting for the English when he was captured at the Battle of Bannockburn. He eventually made peace with Robert Bruce and attached his seal to the Declaration in 1320 - but returned to England not long after, then left for France in 1321.

Definitions:

Fealty = promise to be loyal

Image: Mike Brooks © Queen's Printer for Scotland, NRS, SP13/7

Sealant information

Sir Gilbert Hay

Sir Gilbert Hay (Gilbert de la Haye), succeeded his father as Lord of Errol about 1305/6.

Gilbert de la Haye appears on the Ragman Rolls on 16 July 1296 swearing fealty to Edward I, king of England, at Aberdeen, renouncing any ties to the king of France, as a result of the Capture of Berwick.

In about 1304, he petitioned the king for relief of his lands that were destroyed during the “Scottish war,” especially because he was in debt £400 “on account of his father.”

By 16 March 1309, he was one of the addressors on a letter from Robert I, king of Scots to Phillip IV of France and clearly in support of Robert the Bruce and listed as Constable of Scotland.

He and his heirs were officially granted the office of Constable of Scotland for all time on 12 November 1314 at Cambuskenneth by Robert I, King of Scots. The duties of the constable included presiding over the judicial court of the household and organising the king's bodyguard and security wherever he happened to be residing.

Gilbert Hay, Lord of Erroll set his seal to the Declaration of Arbroath on 6 April 1320. He is believed to have died in April 1333.

Definitions:

Fealty = promise to be loyal

Renouncing = giving up/no longer supporting

Relief = payment/compensation

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Sealant information

David Graham

Sir David Graham, who died between 1327 and 1330, was the eldest son of three or possibly four children of Sir Patrick Graham of Kincardine.

David fought alongside his father in the First War of Scottish Independence, at the Battle of Dunbar (1296) against Edward I of England. He was captured and imprisoned in the Tower of London and St Briavell's Castle, Gloucestershire. He was released in July 1297, on condition he accompany King Edward I of England on an expedition to France.

Campaigns by Edward I from 1301, led to a Scottish surrender in 1304 at Strathord, near Perth. David Graham was among those banished from Scotland (for six months) 'for conducting himself so falsely ... with the members of the Kings Council.' He may have remained in England, until Robert the Bruce's victory at Bannockburn (1314).

In his final years, Graham emerged as a strong supporter of Robert Bruce. His name is attached to the famous 1320 Declaration of Arbroath. King Robert rewarded Graham for his loyalty including an exchange of the lands of Old Montrose for Cardross where Robert I died in 1329.



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Sealant information

Alexander Seaton

Sir Alexander Seton was a Scottish knight in the service of Edward II, King of England at the time of the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314.

He reconsidered his loyalties on the eve of battle, because as legend has it, he defected to the camp of Robert the Bruce, informed him of the English troops' low morale and assured him a Scottish victory was possible if they attacked in the morning. This act presumably led to the Scottish victory against King Edward II's forces.

He later set his seal to the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320 in support of Scottish independence from England.

He was given various lands by Robert I as a sign of the king's favour, including Barns and the east mill of Haddington in East Lothian. His lands of Seton in East Lothian were granted free burgh status.

By 1328, he was appointed Governor of Berwick. He died sometime after 12 August 1348.

Definitions:

Free burgh = a town that was allowed to govern itself, make its own decisions, and e.g. hold markets



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