

## **Bishop Robert Wishart Patriot and Leader**

- The only one to step forward at Norham and protest to Edward I, ‘...the kingdom of Scotland was free to the extent that it owed tribute or homage to no-one save God alone....’ <sup>1</sup>
- Pope Boniface VIII described him as ‘...the prime mover and instigator of all the tumult and dissension which has risen between his dearest son in Christ, Edward, King of England, and the Scots.’ <sup>2</sup>
- Exiled from Scotland by Edward I, ‘...on account of the great evils he has caused.’ <sup>3</sup>
- Edward II writes to the pope of Wishart, ‘...stirred up the inhabitants of Scotland to rebellion, broken his oaths of fealty and homage, been the source of conspiracies, not been peaceful but warlike, a knight on horseback with a shield, sword, breastplate, helmet and lance...’ <sup>4</sup>

### **His Squire**

- In the Lanercost Chronicle, ‘.....whose personal name was Robert Wishart ever foremost in treason.... caused a bloody man, William Wallace ...to revolt against the king and assemble the people in his support...’ <sup>5</sup>
- William Wallace, a younger son of a minor knight, <sup>6</sup> and Matthew of York a priest <sup>7</sup> steal 36 gallons of beer in Perth from the property of Christiana of St. John. <sup>8</sup> Edward I tracking Balliol arrives in Perth the following day. <sup>9</sup> *Wishart in King John's retinue gives the orders to carry out the theft of the beer.*
- Heading to Kincardine Castle, <sup>10</sup> King John's retreating cortege would have passed Scone Abbey on the way. A year later, William Wallace and William Douglas carry out the Raid on Scone. <sup>11</sup> In 1819 a stone fitting the description of the one used at Balliol's enthronement <sup>12</sup> is found in a vault below the ancient fort at Dunsinane Hill, north of Scone. <sup>13</sup>
- Wallace rescues the bishop's sons from Ancrum Palace, <sup>14</sup> he then heads north with his army from his base in Selkirk Forest to besiege Dundee Castle, <sup>15</sup> joins forces with Sir Andrew Moray, <sup>16</sup> and after Stirling Bridge ensures that Wishart's Chancellor, William Lamberton is elected as the new

Bishop of St. Andrews. <sup>17</sup> *All on orders received in Selkirk Forest, from Wishart passing through to nearby Berwick and captivity.*

- After Wishart's return from exile, Wallace is captured less than an hours ride from Glasgow Cathedral. <sup>18</sup> *On his way to meet his mentor after 8 years of no contact between the two.*

## Sir William Wallace on the Continent

- Bishop William Lamberton returns from the continent with news that the Pope has demanded the release of all Scottish clerics, and the release of John Balliol into papal custody. <sup>19</sup>
- The two Guardians John Comyn and Robert the Bruce travel south to Selkirk Forest with their army. An advance party is sent outside Roxburgh Castle walls, where Bishop Robert Wishart is being held captive. *They demand the release of the bishop*, who in turn damages the castle trying to escape. <sup>20</sup>
- All the nobles who travelled south meet at Peebles a few days later. It is now known that William Wallace will head to France without approval *to bring back Balliol*. <sup>21</sup> Bishop William Lamberton is named as the third Guardian of Scotland. <sup>22</sup>
- Wallace arrives at Balliol's new home, La Malmaison in northern France. <sup>23</sup> *Balliol refuses to leave*, but gives him a letter of safe conduct. <sup>24</sup> Heading home, Wallace and his 5 knights are arrested at Amiens, and taken south to Paris. <sup>25</sup> Philip IV offers Wallace to Edward I, but the English king turns the offer down. <sup>26</sup>
- A year later Philip IV gives Wallace a letter of introduction to his agents at the French Embassy in the Vatican. <sup>27</sup> *Not wanted by the Scottish nobility, Philip IV, or even Edward I, a role will be created for Wallace in captivity far away from the conflict.*

### Bibliography

\*1 Watson, Fiona, 2018, *Traitor, Outlaw, King: Part One; The Making of Robert Bruce*, Wordpress, p.51

\*2 Tytler, Patrick Fraser, 1866, *History of Scotland*, Ballantyne & co. p.167

\*3 Barrow, GWS, 1965, *Robert Bruce and the Community of the Realm of Scotland*, University of California Press, p.183

\*4 Primrose, Rev. James, 1913, *Medieval Glasgow*, p.51

\*5 Fisher, Andrew, 2007, *William Wallace*, Birlinn Ltd, p.66

\*6 Young, Alan & Stead Michael J, 2002, *In the Footsteps of William Wallace*, Sutton Press, p.38

- \*7 (Young & Stead 2002: p.39)
- \*8 (Young & Stead 2002: p.39/40)
- \*9 McKim, Anne, 2003, Blind Harry *The Wallace*, Canongate, p.395. English St. Botulph's day 21 June
- \*10 (Watson 2018: p.79)
- \*11 (Fisher 2007: p.78/79)
- \*12 Rothwell, Harry, 1957, *The Chronicle of Guisborough* p.239 '.....concave and made in the manner of a round chair.....black, polished, decorated and shaped like a stool, placed within a chair to raise its height.' *A description of a basalt stone quarried from the top of a column on the Giants Causeway County Antrim, and consistent with the tradition that created Moot Hill*. La Fial, Stone of Destiny, Stone of Ireland!
- \*13 [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) Morning Chronicle, Saturday 2 January 1819 p.4
- \*14 (Watson 2018: p.91/p.224)
- \*15 (Watson 2018: p.92)
- \*16 Watson, Fiona, 1998, *Under the Hammer Edward I and Scotland*, Tuckwell Press, p.48
- \*17 (Fisher 2007: p.128)
- \*18 (Fisher 2007: p.226)
- \*19 (Watson 2018: p.104/105)
- \*20 (Watson 2018: p.106)
- \*21 (Watson 2018: p.106)
- \*22 (Watson 1998: p.85)
- \*23 (Watson 2018: p.110)
- \*24 (Watson 2018: p.227)
- \*25 (Young & Stead 2002: p.161)
- \*26 (Fisher2007: p.184)
- \*27 (Fisher 2007: p.185)

## Lanark and Lundie

- Sir Richard Lundie of *Cumnock Castle*, son-in-law of Sir Patrick Dunbar, <sup>1</sup> a prominent supporter of Edward I, <sup>2</sup> *is in Lanark. He is with a peaceable delegation opposing* the threat of military service overseas, and the levying of a new tax which is causing widespread hardship. <sup>3</sup> William Wallace of Blackcraig Castle near Cumnock, <sup>4</sup> an outlaw after Perth *doesn't enter Lanark*.
- In court their grievances are rejected by Sheriff William Heselrig. Wallace and his followers enter Lanark after dark, setting the houses inhabited by the English on fire, killing them as they run out. <sup>5</sup> The next day Lundie rescues the English knight Thomas Gray, who had played dead lying in the snow, helping him to health and then onto safety. <sup>6</sup>
- Now finding himself on the wrong side, Lundie swaps back at Irvine before the negotiations start. <sup>7</sup>
- *Desperate to rid himself of the reputation as a follower of Wallace*, this minor Scottish knight approaches the English leaders at Stirling with a plan to outflank the Scottish army. <sup>8</sup>

\*1 Smith, Robert Alan Lundie, 2005, *History of the Clan Lundy, Lundie, Lundin*, p.64

\*2 (Fisher 2007: p.49)

\*3 (Watson 1998: p.46)

\*4 (McKim 2003: p.410)

\*5 (Watson 2018: p.86)

\*6 (Watson 2018: p.223)

\*7 (Watson 2018: p.223)

\*8 (Watson 2018: p.223)

‘.....concave and made in the manner of a round chair.....black, polished, decorated and shaped like a stool, placed within a chair to raise its height.’ Walter of Guisborough

Looking towards Scotland.

