

William the Lion

William the Lion (Mediaeval Gaelic: *Uilliam mac Eanric* (i.e. *William, son of Henry*); Modern Gaelic: *Uilleam mac Eanraig*), sometimes styled **William I**, also known by the nickname **Garbh**, "the Rough",^[2] (c. 1142 – 4 December 1214) reigned as **King of Scots** from 1165 to 1214. He had the second-longest reign in **Scottish history** before the **Act of Union** with **England** in 1707. **James VI** (reigned 1567–1625) would have the longest.

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Life

William was born circa 1142, during the reign of his grandfather King **David I of Scotland**. His parents were the King's son **Prince Henry** and his wife **Ada de Warenne**. William was around 10 years old when his father died in 1152, making his elder brother **Malcolm the heir apparent** to their grandfather. From his father William inherited the **Earldom of Northumbria**. David I died the next year, and William became **heir presumptive** to the new king, **Malcolm IV**. In 1157, William lost the Earldom of Northumbria to **Henry II of England**.

Malcolm IV did not live for long, and upon his death on 9 December 1165, at age 24, William ascended the throne. The new monarch was crowned on 24 December 1165. In contrast to his deeply religious, frail brother, William was powerfully built, redheaded, and headstrong. He was an effective monarch whose reign was marred by his ill-fated attempts to regain control of his paternal inheritance of **Northumbria** from the Anglo-Normans.

Traditionally, William is credited with founding **Arbroath Abbey**, the site of the later **Declaration of Arbroath**.

He was not known as "the Lion" during his own lifetime, and the title did not relate to his tenacious character or his military prowess. It was attached to him because of his flag or standard, a red lion rampant with a forked tail (*queue fourchée*) on a yellow background. This (with the substitution of a 'double tressure fleury counter-fleury' border instead of an orle) went on to become the **Royal Banner of Scotland**, still used today but **quartered** with those of **England** and of **Ireland**. It became attached to him because the chronicler **John of Fordun** called him the "Lion of Justice".

William was a key player in the **Revolt of 1173–74** against Henry II. In 1174, at the **Battle of Alnwick**, during a raid in support of the revolt, William recklessly charged the English troops himself, shouting, "Now we shall see which of us are good knights!" He was unhorsed and captured by Henry's troops led by **Ranulf de Glanvill** and taken in chains to **Newcastle**, then **Northampton**, and then transferred to **Falaise** in **Normandy**. Henry then sent an army to Scotland and occupied it. As ransom and to regain his kingdom, William had to acknowledge Henry as his feudal superior and agree to pay for the cost of the English army's occupation of Scotland by taxing the Scots. The cost was equal to 40,000 Scottish Merks.^[3] The church of Scotland was also subjected to that of England. This he did by signing the **Treaty of Falaise**. He was then allowed to return to Scotland. In 1175 he swore fealty to Henry II at **York Castle**.

William I	
 <div>Seal of William the Lion</div>	
King of Scots	
Reign	9 December 1165 – 4 December 1214
Coronation	24 December 1165
Predecessor	Malcolm IV
Successor	Alexander II
Born	c.1142 ^[1]
Died	4 December 1214 (aged 72) <div>Stirling</div>
Burial	Arbroath Abbey
Spouse	Ermengarde de Beaumont (m. 1186)
Issue	Margaret, Countess of Kent <p>Isabella, Countess of Norfolk</p> Alexander II of Scotland <p>Marjorie</p>
House	House of Dunkeld
Father	Henry of Scotland
Mother	Ada de Warenne

The humiliation of the Treaty of Falaise triggered a revolt in Galloway which lasted until 1186, and prompted construction of a castle at Dumfries. In 1179, meanwhile, William and his brother David personally led a force northwards into Easter Ross, establishing two further castles, north of the Beaully and Cromarty Firths;^[4] one on the Black Isle at Ederdour; and the other at Dunkeath, near the mouth of the Cromarty Firth opposite Cromarty.^[5] The aim was to discourage the Norse Earls of Orkney from expanding beyond Caithness.

A further rising in 1181 involved Donald Meic Uilleim, descendant of King Duncan II. Donald briefly took over Ross; not until his death (1187) was William able to reclaim Donald's stronghold of Inverness. Further royal expeditions were required in 1197 and 1202 to fully neutralise the Orcadian threat.

The Treaty of Falaise remained in force for the next fifteen years. Then the English king Richard the Lionheart, needing money to take part in the Third Crusade, agreed to terminate it in return for 10,000 silver marks, on 5 December 1189.

William attempted to purchase Northumbria from Richard in 1194, as he had a strong claim over it. However, his offer of 15,000 marks was rejected due to wanting the castles within the lands, which Richard was not willing to give.^[6]

Despite the Scots regaining their independence, Anglo-Scottish relations remained tense during the first decade of the 13th century. In August 1209 King John decided to flex the English muscles by marching a large army to Norham (near Berwick), in order to exploit the flagging leadership of the ageing Scottish monarch. As well as promising a large sum of money, the ailing William agreed to his elder daughters marrying English nobles and, when the treaty was renewed in 1212, John apparently gained the hand of William's only surviving legitimate son, and heir, Alexander, for his eldest daughter, Joan.

Despite continued dependence on English goodwill, William's reign showed much achievement. He threw himself into government with energy and diligently followed the lines laid down by his grandfather, David I. Anglo-French settlements and feudalization were extended, new burghs founded, criminal law clarified, the responsibilities of justices and sheriffs widened, and trade grew. Arbroath Abbey was founded (1178), and the bishopric of Argyll established (c.1192) in the same year as papal confirmation of the Scottish church by Pope Celestine III.

According to legend, "William is recorded in 1206 as curing a case of scrofula by his touching and blessing a child with the ailment whilst at York".^[7] William died in Stirling in 1214 and lies buried in Arbroath Abbey. His son, Alexander II, succeeded him as king, reigning from 1214 to 1249.

Marriage and issue

Due to the terms of the Treaty of Falaise, Henry II had the right to choose William's bride. As a result, William married Ermengarde de Beaumont, a great-granddaughter of King Henry I of England, at Woodstock Palace in 1186. Edinburgh Castle was her dowry. The marriage was not very successful, and it was many years before she bore him an heir. William and Ermengarde's children were:

1. Margaret (1193–1259), married Hubert de Burgh, 1st Earl of Kent.
2. Isabel (1195–1253), married Roger Bigod, 4th Earl of Norfolk.
3. Alexander II of Scotland (1198–1249).
4. Marjorie (1200 – 17 November 1244),^[8] married Gilbert Marshal, 4th Earl of Pembroke.

Out of wedlock, William I had numerous children, their descendants being among those who would lay claim to the Scottish crown.

By an unnamed daughter of Adam de Hythus:

1. Margaret, married Eustace de Vesci, Lord of Alnwick.^[9]

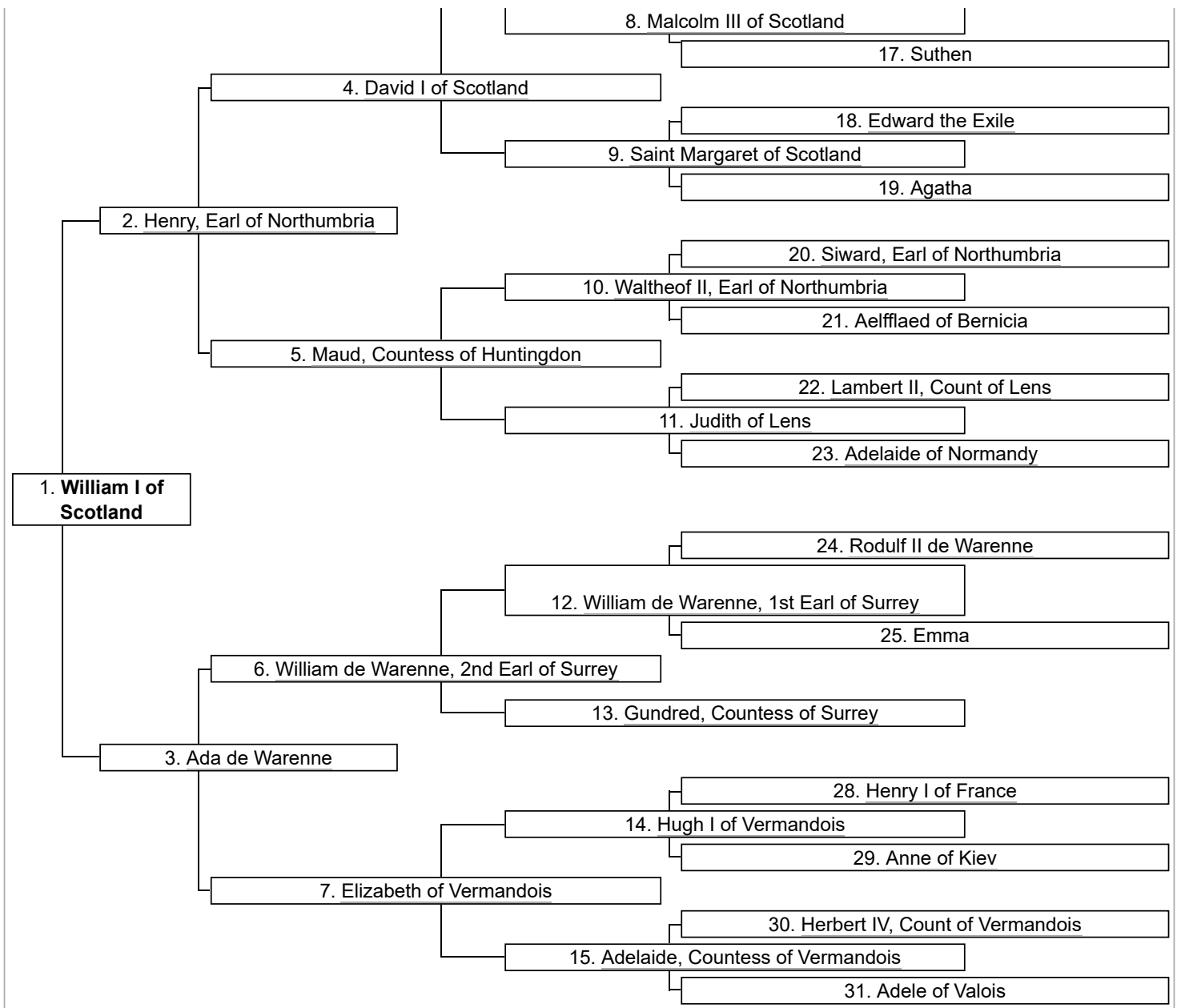
By Isabel d'Avenel:

1. Robert de London^[10]
2. Henry de Galightly, father of Patrick Galithly one of the competitors to the crown in 1291^[11]
3. Ada Fitzwilliam (c.1164–1200), married Patrick I, Earl of Dunbar (1152–1232)^[11]
4. Aufrica, married William de Say, and whose grandson Roger de Mandeville was one of the competitors to the crown in 1291^[11]
5. Isabella Mac William married Robert III de Brus then Robert de Ros (died 1227), Magna Carta Suretor^[12]

Ancestry

Ancestors of William the Lion

16. Duncan I of Scotland



Notes

1. *A dictionary of British history*: "William I (c.1142-1214), king of Scots (1165-1214), later known as 'the Lion'. Younger brother and successor to Malcolm IV, he was granted the earldom of Northumberland by his grandfather David I in 1152"
2. *Uilleam Garbh*; e.g. *Annals of Ulster*, s.a. 1214.6; *Annals of Loch Cé*, s.a. 1213.10.
3. *Cardonnel, Adam de. Numismata scotiae, or A series of the Scottish coinage, from the reign of William The lion to the union. By Adam De Cardonnel, member of the antiquarian society of Edinburgh. Edinburgh, M,DCC,LXXXVI. [1786].*
4. Matheson, Alister Farquhar (28 Aug 2014). *Scotland's Northwest Frontier: A Forgotten British Borderland* (https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=YIZ0BAAAQBAJ&dq=William+the+Lion+AND+easter+ross+castles&source=gbs_navlinks_s). Troubador Publishing Ltd. p. 19. ISBN 978-1-78306-442-7.
5. Crowl, Philip Axtell (1986). *The intelligent traveller's guide to historic Scotland* (https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=Mh0OAQAAMAAJ&q=%22William+the+Lion%22+castle+%22easter+ross%22&dq=%22William+the+Lion%22+castle+%22easter+ross%22&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjs_IXbxJLSAhUGDsAKHeleDacQ6AEIJjAC). Congdon & Weed. p. 83.
6. Gillingham, John (2000). *Richard*. p. 272. ISBN 0-300-09404-3.
7. Rommel, Albert (2015). *The Esoteric Codex: Sorcery* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=fU5pCQAAQBAJ&pg=PA216&lpg=PA216&dq=William+is+recorded+in+1206+as+having+cured+a+case+of+scrofula+by+his+touching+and+blessing+a+child+with+the+ailment+whilst+at+York&source=bl&hl=en>) (1st ed.). lulu.com. p. 216. ISBN 978-1-312-92968-5. Retrieved 8 August 2016.
8. *Scotland: The Making of the Kingdom*, A.A.M. Duncan, p527

9. Saul, Nigel. "**Eustace de Vesci**" (<http://magnacarta800th.com/schools/biographies/the-25-barons-of-magna-carta/eustace-de-vesci/>). *Magna Carta Trust*. Retrieved 8 Aug 2016.
10. Scotland: The Making of the Kingdom, A.A.M. Duncan, p175
11. Balfour Paul, Vol. I, p.5
12. Saul, Nigel. "**Robert de Ros**" (<http://magnacarta800th.com/schools/biographies/the-25-barons-of-magna-carta/robert-de-ros/>). *Magna Carta Trust*. Retrieved 8 August 2016.

Sources

- Ashley, Mike. *Mammoth Book of British Kings and Queens*. 1998.
- Magnusson, Magnus. *Scotland: Story of a Nation*. 2001.

External links

William the Lion House of Dunkeld Born: ? c. 1142 Died: 4 December 1214		
Regnal titles		
Preceded by Malcolm IV	King of Scots 1165–1214	Succeeded by Alexander II
Peerage of England		
Preceded by Henry of Scotland	Earl of Northumbria 1152–1157	Forfeit
Preceded by Malcolm IV of Scotland	Earl of Huntingdon 1165–1174	Succeeded by Simon III of St Liz

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