

# Declaration of Arbroath Family History Project

Progress report 10, 2 July 2020

## Project webpage

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/genealogy/declarationofarbroathresearch/>

## Documentary strand

As reported previously, at least one set of research findings on all 48 individuals associated with the Declaration have been submitted by Diploma students – 40 as part of this Project, in addition to findings on another 8 who had previously been researched as part of the Battle of Bannockburn Family History Project. The findings consist of brief biographies, four generation genealogies showing descendants of the grandparents of the focus individual and details of coats of arms. The list of their names can be found on the Strathclyde genealogy website at <http://www.strathgenealogy.org.uk/declaration-of-arbroath/>

## Genetic genealogy strand

Student work detailing male line descendants for up to 10 generations of 16 of the individuals will help to inform further staff work in the genetic genealogy strand of the Project. The first phase of this strand involved the gathering of DNA test results from well documented male line descendants of some of those who were associated with the Declaration. This strand has now entered the second phase, focusing on analysis of test results and identifying matches with individuals who do not have documentary evidence of their medieval descents. A number of these have now been identified as descendants of 'signatories' of the Declaration and research is proceeding to expand this number and explore further the branching of the focus families. Conclusions have been reached on a number of these families, particularly the Boyd, Dunbar, Seton and Stewart families.

50 relevant DNA test results are now included in the Project and the major focus is on the following families –

Boyd (including descent from Hay)  
Dunbar  
Lindsay  
Maxwell  
Seton  
Sinclair  
Stewart  
Sutherland

Contact has been made with a number of DNA projects and we have been working with these as the research progresses.

## Exhibition

A list of the 16 individuals to be featured in the Project exhibition has been compiled. The exhibition will display biographies, genealogical charts and coats of arms of these individuals, as well as

presenting documentation on all 48 of the individuals associated with the Declaration and details on the genetic genealogy research carried out.

The preparation of materials for the Exhibition is almost complete.

The Project Exhibition will be rescheduled as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, but if possible will be held initially at Arbroath Abbey at some point in 2021, with subsequent presentation at Dumfries Museum and possibly other venues.

The list of the 16 individuals to be featured in the Exhibition is as follows –

King Robert I (the Bruce)

Campbell, Donald

Douglas, James, Lord of

Graham, David

Hay, Gilbert, Constable of Scotland

Lindsay, David

Maxwell, Eustace

Menteith, Sir John

Mowbray, Roger

Randolph, Thomas, Earl of Moray

Seton, Alexander

Sinclair, Henry

Soules, William, Butler of Scotland

Stewart, Walter, High Steward of Scotland

Sutherland, William, Earl of

Umfraville, Ingram

#### **Contacts with the following DNA projects**

Boyd DNA Project

Campbell DNA Project

Dunbar DNA Project

Lennox, MacFarlane, Leckie DNA Project

Lindsay DNA Project

R-U198 DNA Project

Seaton/Seton DNA Project

Sinclair DNA Project

Stewart DNA Project

Sutherland DNA Project

## Contacts with other organisations

Arbroath 2020

Historic Environment Scotland

- consultative role on some interpretative materials for Arbroath Abbey
- provision of input to educational materials used in Arbroath Academy and to be made available online for other schools from August

HMP Low Moss, Bishopbriggs

Medieval Bruce Heritage Trust

National Trust for Scotland

Victoria University of Wellington NZ Scottish Interest Group

## Other outputs

Articles by Graham Holton and Alasdair Macdonald:

History Scotland, November/December 2019 issue

History Scotland, July/August 2020 issue

Who Do You Think You Are? magazine – provisionally August 2020.

A number of other articles are planned.

Presentations by Graham Holton and Alasdair Macdonald:

- Medieval Bruce Heritage Trust symposium on the Declaration of Arbroath, 28 March 2020, Dumfries  
*The Declaration of Arbroath Family History Project: 14<sup>th</sup> century men and 21<sup>st</sup> century descendants*  
CANCELLED
- Declaration of Arbroath 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, 23-25 April 2020, Newbattle Abbey College - 24 April, 4 pm.  
*The men of the Declaration – their significance, then and now*  
CANCELLED  
Rescheduled for 22-24 April 2021
- House of Dun, Montrose (National Trust for Scotland), 2 July, 6.30 pm  
*The Declaration of Arbroath Family History Project: local surnames 1320 to 2020*  
CANCELLED
- Victoria University of Wellington NZ Scottish Interest Group, 28 August 2020  
Recording of general talk on the Project to be supplied
- Dumfries Museum, 10 September 2020, 6.30 pm  
Pre-exhibition presentation  
CANCELLED
- HMP Low Moss, Bishopbriggs. To be confirmed  
Talk on DNA testing as it relates to the Declaration and its relevance today

### **Impact of Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic**

Events have already been cancelled as a result of the pandemic, but it is hoped that the Medieval Bruce Heritage Trust will be able to reschedule their symposium at some future date.

The Declaration of Arbroath 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference will be held on 22-24 April 2021.

It is now clear that no physical events will take place until 2021, so the current ongoing plan for the Project is to produce, and if feasible publish, a Project report around early October. In the meantime, discussions will take place with the relevant organisations to agree appropriate dates for the Project exhibition to be held at Arbroath Abbey, Dumfries Museum and possibly other venues at some point in 2021. Preparation of an online version of the Exhibition will also commence with the aim of making this available at a later date.