

Declaration of Arbroath Family History Project

Progress report 5, 16 August 2019

Documentary strand

As reported previously, at least one set of research findings on all 48 individuals associated with the Declaration have now 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. These findings will be supplemented by submissions from Diploma students in the next academic session. 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

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 of the Project is now entering the second phase, which will focus on analysis of test results and identifying matches with individuals who do not have documentary evidence of their medieval descents.

18 relevant DNA test results are now included in the Project and the major focus will be on the following families –

Boyd (including descent from Hay)

Lindsay

Sinclair

Stewart

Sutherland

If feasible, further research on other families may be carried out, such as the families of Campbell, Maxwell and Umfreville.

Contact has been made with a number of DNA surname projects and we are beginning to work with these as the research progresses.

Exhibition

As mentioned in previous Progress reports, the Project Exhibition will be held initially at Arbroath Abbey from 3 July to 14 August 2020.

The exhibition will also be presented at Dumfries Museum from 12 September to 31 October.

Other outputs

Article in History Scotland, either November/December 2019, or January/February 2020 issue, by Graham Holton and Alasdair Macdonald

Presentations by Graham Holton and Alasdair Macdonald

- Medieval Bruce Heritage Trust symposium on the Declaration of Arbroath, March 2020, Dumfries
- Declaration of Arbroath 700th Anniversary Conference, 23-25 April 2020, Newbattle Abbey College
- Pre-exhibition presentation, 11 September 2020, Dumfries Museum (provisional)

Coverage in the press

The Courier 10 August 2019 - <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/angus-mearns/953759/boffins-begin-search-for-declaration-of-arbroath-descendants-ahead-of-700th-anniversary/>

The Scotsman 13 August 2019 - <https://www.scotsman.com/heritage/dna-search-to-identify-descendants-of-declaration-of-arbroath-nobles-1-4983072>