

# Declaration of Arbroath Family History Project

Progress report 9, 24 April 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 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. All research findings from Diploma students which will form the basis for the Project exhibition have now been submitted. 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. One important conclusion has been the identification of genetic markers carried by the noble family of Boyd. This means that Boyds taking a Y-DNA test will be able to discover whether they are descended from this family of Boyds, first recorded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Conclusions have also been reached on the Dunbar, Seton and Stewart families.

49 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

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

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 documentary strand of the Exhibition is nearing completion, while work on refining conclusions in the genetic genealogy strand is progressing.

The Project Exhibition will be held initially at Arbroath Abbey from 3 July to 14 August 2020 and also presented at Dumfries Museum from 12 September to 31 October.

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 for use initially in Arbroath Academy and provisionally to be made available online for other schools

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 (forthcoming)

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*
- 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

- 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.

Due to the uncertainties surrounding the ongoing measures to meet the challenge of Covid-19, the other planned physical events are subject to change.