Did King Edward I try a honey trap to catch The Bruce?

George Mair: 11/27/2010 from The Daily Scotsman

ENGLISH king Edward I hatched a secret plot to lure Robert the Bruce to his death eight years before the Battle of Bannockburn by using the women he loved most as bait, according to a new book Edward Longshanks, the infamous "Hammer of the Scots", hoped to trap and kill King Robert after the capture of the Scot's Queen, two of his sisters, his aunt and his young daughter.

The women were held - some in cages on castle walls - close to the Scottish Border in locations that might have tempted the Bruce to stage a hopeless rescue. Had the plot succeeded, it would have changed the course of history, with no Bannockburn or Declaration of Arbroath. The plot has been suggested after almost 700 years by historian David R Ross, who came across evidence while researching his last book, Women of Scotland, which is to be launched today.

Mr Ross, who was convener of The Society of William Wallace, died in January from a heart attack, aged 51, and his book has only now been published with help from, among others, his friend and fellow historian Dr Fiona Watson. Mr Ross claimed the trap was set in the months after Robert the Bruce was crowned King of Scots on 25 March, 1306.

The women were captured in Ross shire. Robert's sister Isobel was put in an iron lattice cage hung on the wall of Roxburgh Castle exposed to the weather day and night for more than 7 years. His aunt was treated similarly at Berwick. Ross has apparently documented what the medieval chronicler John Barbour assumed, that the women were a lure to trap Bruce. Being a Royal Lady in the late Middle Ages was no guarantee of a life of privilege and ease.

National Trust for Scotland to Recognize John Playfair

Daily Scotsman: Brian Ferguson: 12/1/ 2010

A key figure in the Scottish enlightenment, John Playfair (whose nephew the architect William designed much of Edinburgh) is slated to receive recognition among the monuments on Calton Hill in Edinburgh. Recognition is fitting, because the replica of the Parthenon or temple to Athena which dominates the skyline of central Edinburgh was a project promoted and begun by the elder Playfair. Playfair helped to create the intellectual climate that propelled Edinburgh to prominence as one of the leading cities of the world in the mid-18th Century, calling itself the Athens of the North. He created the climate of "Improvement" which led to the planning and creation of Edinburgh's New Town, and to the expansion of faculty at the University.

Our National Poets: William Drummond

Drummond of Hawthornden, near Edinburgh, [1585-1649] is a poet more written of than read in our time. He was widely educated, and expected to become a lawyer. But becoming Laird upon the death of his father in 1604, he promptly kicked over Law and took up Letters. He was part of a group who accompanied King James VI to London when he acceded to the throne of England, and from whom James hoped to create a distinctively Scottish literary style in London. Drummond was well known to Ben Jonson and other English royalist writers who visited him at Hawthornden. Drummond wrote poetry in the manner of Edmund Spenser, Philip Sydney, and John Lyly -- light and fantastic pastoral. Drummond's private diary of his two week visit with Ben Jonson was discovered in the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh in the 1850's and published: its snarky reflections on the literary and political world gave Drummond an undeserved bad reputation in the modern world.

Scots Names: Knox

Best known bearer of this name was the Scottish Reformer and preacher, John Knox, who was born near Haddington in Lothian 1505. His family appears in historical records first when an ancestor about 1260 was granted land in Renfrew named (in Gaelic) Knock for the hill on which it was situated. This land is now known as Ranfurly. Another family in Aberdeen which owned a farm named Knock also styled themselves "Of That Ilk." The Ranfurly family received Arms in 1690, with a Belfast branch. The 7th Earl Knox of Ranfurly was recently living near Colchester in Essex Shire. The Knoxes are a widespread and numerous family, including well known artists, politicians, and professors. Henry Knox was US Treasurer for the Continental Congress, and helped organize transport of captured cannons from Ticonderoga to Dorchester Heights, causing the British to evacuate Boston in 1775.

The Old Scots Tongue

- bonnie (a) fair, pleasing, lovely, beautiful.
- bonnage (n) tenant's obligation to cut the Laird's corn.
- bonaillie (n) farewell drink with an emigrating friend.
- bonnar (n) a bond or requirement of service.
- bonnet (n) a person bidding on his own goods at roup.
- bonnoch (n) hobble rope to prevent cow from kicking; therefore -- opponents in a curling match.
- boo (n) [= booth] term for a farmstead or small village.
- booby (n) lowest performing child in a school.
- boodies (n pl) spectres, ghosts, goblins.
- bool (n) [= bull] a specially obstinate man.
- bool-horned (a) a heedlessly obstinate or self-willed man
- boolie (a) crooked or deformed
- boolie (n) iron tool for lifting pots on or off the fire
- boonmost (a) upper most [from 'aboon,' above]

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St. Andrews Society of VT website <www.standrewssocietyofvermont.org>

THE BAND AT Robert Burns' Day Dinner:

The music for the St. Andrews Society "Robbie Burns night" this year will be provided by three Vermont musicians who are well-known to all fans of Celtic music in the Green Mountains. Marty Morrissey and Robert Resnik have been performing as members of the Highland Weavers for more than 20 years, and for most of that time have been the featured musicians for the annual St. Andrews Society event. Between them Marty and Robert play at least 25 different musical instruments, including guitars, banjos, mandolins, accordions, concertinas, and a set of Scottish border pipes! They will be joined this year by ace vocalist and wind player Marty Resnik, the founder and lead singer for Bootless and Unhorsed, one of the longest-running and best-loved Celtic bar bands in Vermont. Beautiful Scottish music for listening, singing along, and dancing is guaranteed !

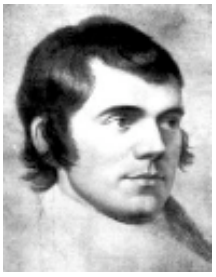
Book Notice

Oxford Companion to Scottish History: Definitive Guide to 2000 years of Scottish History. Oxford, 2001/2007. 732 pages with tables & index. As a reference guide, this differs from the usual book noticed in these pages. Compiled from essays by nearly 200 contributors, the guide aspires to present a non-partisan, non-ideological summary of available research on all the listed topics. For instance, the essay on Scottish Episcopalians notes in a matter of fact way that Scots Episcopalian Church was organized among those clergy who refused to participate when the Scottish Kirk (Presbyterian) was re-established as the National Church in 1690, and notes the complications of allegiance to Charles Edward Stuart among many Episcopal clergy, and how the growing trend of major landlords in Scotland to profess in the Episcopal faith complicated the Church of Scotland's Investiture crisis in the 1840's. All in about 1500 words!

The articles on the Clearances distinguish the many different kinds of action lumped under that title. Changing conditions of agriculture, the growth of trade as the Empire expanded, modern travel technology, the extension of education, all guaranteed that the old ways of life among the isolated glens of the Highlands could never continue. Some of the great Lairds systematically eased the weaker tenants off their lands over 100 years or more; in some families one generation resisted moving the starving tenants off until the family faced bankruptcy -- and then the bankruptcy trustees forced non-paying tenants off wholesale. A number of viewpoints are presented in several brief essays. The essays on the Covenanters, Emigration, Music, Links and many other topics are equally brief, thorough, and backed up with definitive references.

Obviously, one must have some sense of Scottish history to make most effective use of this volume. For instance, an essay titled "The Age of Equipoise" refers to the title of a book which was long a classic in Scottish schools for 4th year seniors to read in preparing for University Entrance Exams. It refers to the period 1852 - 1867, when Chartism had faded, the age of Revolutions had ebbed, and Victorian Britain seemed to return to an even keel. But Scotland had too many issues, and never achieved the Victorian calm that the South did. Many hidden topics may be discovered on random scans: for instance, James Young of Edinburgh invented the modern petrochemical and plastics industry when he began distilling Scottish "Cannel" coal. Available hardbound, or in a paper edition at $23.00, this Companion might well be suitable both for the public library and for the home library of a serious Scot.

ROBBIE BURNS DINNER & CELEBRATION



SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2011
At the Barre Elks Club
Corner of Elm & Jefferson Streets

5:00 Social Gathering (Cash Bar)
5:30 Seating of members and guests
5:45 Highland Dancers Welcome
6:00 Haggis Ceremony
6:30 Family style roast beef dinner with all the trimmings and toasts.
7:30 Highland Weavers with interludes of Highland Dancers.

Evening filled with music for listening, dancing and singing with musicians from The Highland Weavers. Performances also by The Pipes and Drums of St. Andrew's, The St. Andrew's Highland Dancers of Vermont, and our famous Wee Raffle.

Price $30 per person $18 for ages 12 and under

RESERVATION DEADLINE, Tuesday, January 13, 2011

Please send your check (payable to the St. Andrew's Society of Vermont) and reservation form to:

Russel Slora
316 Farwell St.
Barre, VT 05641-9071

For more information, please call (802) 476-3580 or e-mail rjslora@aol.com

The following persons will be attending the Burns Night Celebration:

Name Ticket Price Clan Affiliation (if any)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Contact for the party is: Phone #

A total of ____ will be attending. Enclosed is a check for $_____.
Seating will be by assigned tables. If you have a preference of whom you would like to sit with, please indicate below.

2010 Officers and Board Of St Andrews Society:

President - David Campbell 802-878-8663
Vice Pres - Russell Slora 802-476-3580
Secretary - Margaret Moon 802 223 5748
Treasurer - Cedric H. Farrow 802-985-3832
Historian - Bruce Shields 802-888-5165
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Dancers - Lauren Starkey 802-878-7767
Archivist -
Webmaster - David Campbell 802-878-8663
<<campbell@together.net>>

Directors [Board of Managers]

	Ann Lanzet
John R.Campbell	Allison Menday (SAS Pipe
Arthur McNeil	Kate Davie (Catamount)
Duncan Mathewson III	Dale Stafford
Jerome Bolkum	Richard Downer, Found.

Storekeepers: Al & Jackie Walker

Peggy Moon's Address: 544 East Rd. (Berlin) Barre, VT 05641-5396

Correct your address promptly to <<pmoon123@pshift.com>>

SCHEDULE OF 2011 EVENTS

- *22 January Robert Burns Dinner*
- *29 April -- AGM in Barre [date tentative]*
- 17 July Kirkin of the Tartan, Barnet
- *27 August, Quechee*

Bring friends to these events. We have good food, good company, and a great introduction to Scottish heritage and culture.

In This Issue:

P. 1 Notes & News
P. 2 Band & Book notes
P. 3 Reservation forms
P. 4 Masthead

David S. Campbell, President
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