

**CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF THE KINGS, QUEENS,  
PRINCES AND NOBILITY INTERRED AT THE CHURCH OF  
THE HOLY TRINITY DUNFERMLINE SEPULTURE OF THE  
ROYAL FAMILY OF SCOTLAND**

ALSO

A GREAT MANY MORE PERSONS OF NOTE VIZ:-

ABBOTS, CLERGY &c.

Compiled by Sheila Pitcairn. F.S.Scot., L.H.G.

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- 1097 PRINCE EDMUND, 1094 - 1097, son of King Malcolm III and his Queen Margaret, Edmund was the only one who fell away from goodness. Partaking of his uncle Donald's wickedness, he was privy to his brother Duncan's death, having forsooth, bargained with his uncle for half the kingdom. But being taken, and kept in fetters for ever, he sincerely repented; and, when at his death's door, he bade them bury him in his chains, confessing that he was worthily punished for the crime of fratricide. (*Fordun Vol ii p. 213*) He was sent to Cluniac Monastery at Montacute in Somerset, and became a monk, the exact date of his death is unknown, he died about this year and **was interred at Dunfermline.**
- 1107 EDGAR KING OF SCOTS, son of King Malcolm III and Queen Margaret, died at Dundee 7th January age 33 and shortly afterwards was interred in the Church of the Holy Trinity, Dunfermline, with great solemnity, **in the Royal burial-place before the High Altar, or Grate Awtre of Winton.** (*Fordun v. 35; Abrid. Scot. Chron. p. 200; Hailes's And Scot. vol ii p. 309; Buchanan's Hist. Scot. &c*)
- 1117 PRINCE ETHELREDE, son of King Malcolm III and Queen Margaret, died about this period in England, while on a visit to his sister, Matilda Queen of England; his remains were conveyed to Dunfermline. **He was buried before the Altar of the Holy Cross near his mother Margaret, the Queen** and his brother Prince Edward in the Church of the Holy Trinity, Dunfermline. (*Balfour's An. Scot. vol. i. p. 2; Wynton's Orygmale Cronikil, vol. ii. pp. 271, 172 &c.*) (*Annals of Dunf. p. 37*)
- 1120 SIBELLA QUEEN OF ALEXANDER I, Alexander's marriage with Henry's illegitimate daughter Sybilla of Normandy, it is said a devoted childless couple, she died at Kenmore on Loch Tay and **was buried at Dunfermline.**
- 1124 ALEXANDER I. KING OF SCOTS, son of King Malcolm III and Queen Margaret, died at Stirling on April 26th in the 18th year of his reign, and about the 48th of his age and was interred before the High Altar of the Church of the Holy Trinity Dunfermline. According to Fordun, he was interred **"near his father before the Great Altar."** The Great Altar and the High Altar are identical. (*Fordun, v. 40*)
- 1153 DAVID I. KING OF SCOTS, the 6th and youngest son of King Malcolm III and Margaret his consort, died in the Castle of Carlisle, on 27th May, in the 30th year of his reign, and about the 76th year of his age, and **"was buried at Dunfermline honourably on the day of St Mark the Evangelist near his father (Malcolm) before the Great Altar.** (*Fordun v. 40*) "in the pavement of the middle choir." (*Fordun, viii 7.*) *David was "found dead in a posture of devotion."* Buried near his father before the Great Altar in the pavement of the Middle Choir. (*Hailes's An Scot. vol. i. p 93 &c*) John, Prior of Hexham, relates, those conveying the King's body from Carlisle to Dunfermline, on arriving on the shores of the Firth of Forth, at Queensferry, "they found the sea in so boisterous and agitated a state, that they were afraid to venture upon it; but no sooner had they placed the royal corpse in the boat, than the storm abated, so that they reached opposite shore without difficulty;" and that after

the King's was body was safely landed on the north shore, "the tempest began again with redoubled fury." (*Decem. Scriptores Col. 282; Morton's Monastic Annals of Teviot, p. 81.*)

- 1165 MALCOLM IV. KING OF SCOTS, (The Maiden), died at Jedburgh 9th December age 24 and had reigned 12 years. He was brought with the highest honour by the most distinguished persons of all ranks in the kingdom to Dunfermline and "interred in the middle pavement of the Abbey to the right of his grandfather King David I, before the High Altar, the royal burial places." (*Fordun viii. 11; Hailes' Annals of Scotland vol. I p. 109.*)
- 1196 MALCOLM EARL OF ATHOLE AND HIS WIFE THE COUNTESS, died between 1194 and 1198, and were interred in the Abbey in the place they had selected. These dates are found by a comparison of the dates of deaths of witnesses affixed to his Charter in the *Register of Dunfermline* p. 85 No. 147.
- 1274 MARGARET QUEEN OF ALEXANDER III, daughter of King Henry III, of England, died at Cupar Castle 26th February, interred in the Choir of the Abbey of Dunfermline, near King David's tomb. (*Hay's Scotia Sacra, p. 329, &c.*)
- 1280 PRINCE DAVID, son of Alexander III. died about 18 years, at Stirling and was interred in the Abbey of Dunfermline. (*Hay's Scotia Sacra, p. 329*)
- 1280 PRINCE ALEXANDER, son of Alexander III, died about 20 years of age at Lindores and was interred in the Abbey of Dunfermline. (*Hay's Scotia Sacra, p.329*) Their deaths (the deaths of the heirs apparent), and that, too, in the same year, was the cause of deep-felt sorrow throughout Scotland. In what part of the Abbey they lie is not known. If they were interred beside their mother, the place of interment would be near the east end of the nave (the Auld Kirk). If near their father, their graves would be somewhere near the pulpit of the present modern Abbey Church.
- 1285 ALEXANDER III KING OF SCOTS, son of Alexander II. "This King, in the dusk of the evening, riding between Burntisland and Kinghorn, was, on March 16th was thrown from his horse over a high rocky cliff, and killed on the spot." Some accounts state that the horse went over the precipice with the rider. (*Hailes' An. Scot. vol. i. p. 183; Fordun x 40; &c*) The remains of the King were embalmed, and according to Hay's *Sacra Scotia* p. 323, his heart was extracted and buried in the Church of St John the Baptist at Perth. Fordun in his account of the violent end of Alexander says "and he was buried in the Abbey of Dunfermline as became a King." " (*Fordun, x 40*). In the *Chronicon de Lanercost*," mention is made of the site of the tomb of this Alexander viz, "1285. he lies at Dunfermline alone, in the middle part, and is buried near the Presbytery:" to which the writer in the *Chronicon* appends; "Whence when we see a multitude lamenting as much his sudden death as the desolation of the kingdom, they alone did not moisten their cheeks with their tears, who closely adhered to him for his acts of friendship and good deeds." At his death Alexander was 44 years of age, and had reigned about 36 years. (*Annals of Dunf. p. 101*)

- 1327 ELIZABETH QUEEN OF ROBERT I, probably died at Cullen Castle near Cullen 26th October and was interred shortly afterwards in the Abbey Choir. King Robert I. (Bruce) at the time of her decease, was prosecuting the Siege of Norham Castle, in England. (*Vide Barbour, xx: Fordun, xiii. 12-14. Hist. Scot vol. i. p. 229 &c*) Her age at death is not known. She was a daughter of Aymer de Burgh, Earl of Ulster, in Ireland. Her remains were accidentally discovered, in 1817, when the ground of the Old Choir was being prepared for the New Abbey Church. Her place of sepulture, was found to be a little to the north-east of King Robert's tomb, viz., about three yards north-east of the stalk which supports the present pulpit. (*Annals of Dunf. p. 124*)
- 1329 ROYAL INTERMENT OF KING ROBERT THE BRUCE AT DUNFERMLINE. King Robert I, the Bruces, of immortal memory, died of leprosy at Cardross, on the Clyde Dumbartonshire on 7th June, 1329 in the 55 year and 24th of his reign, and was, interred with great pomp and ceremony in the middle of the Choir of Dunfermline Abbey. (*Barbour, xx; Fordun xiii. 112, 14; Hemingford, ii. 269; Abrid. Scot. Chron. p. 112; Hailes's An. Scot. vol. i. p. 353; Hay's Scotia Sara; Buchanan's Hist. Scot; Guthrie's Hist. Scot, &c.*) (*Annals of Dunf. p. 125*)
- 1356 CHRISTIAN DE BRUCE, was buried in Dunfermline Abbey, sister of King Robert de Bruce and wife of the late Andrew de Moravia the good Regent of Scotland. (*Hay's Scotia Sacra, Chal. Hist. Dunf. vol. p. 493.*) (*Annals of Dunf. 138*)
- 1366 MATHILDA BRUCE, was interred at Dunfermline Abbey, daughter of King Robert the Bruce and sister of King David II, died and was interred in Dunfermline Abbey, but whether in the old building or in the Choir, is not known; but it is most likely that she was interred in the Choir, near the High Altar and near the places of sepulture of her father and mother, King Robert and Queen Elizabeth. (*Annals of Dunf.p.140*)
- 1403 ROYAL INTERMENT IN THE ABBEY, QUEEN ANNABELLA DRUMMOND, died at Inverkeithing, and was interred in "haly sepulture" in the Abbey of Dunfermline, but whether in the original building or in the Choir is not known. This was the last of the Royal Interments at Dunfermline, excepting the infant son of James VI, in 1602. (*Chambers's Gaz. Scot. pp. 584, 585; Chal. Hist. Dunf. vol. i. p. 137; vol. ii. p. 242.*) (*Annals of Dunf. p. 149*)
- 1602 DEATH OF THE INFANT PRINCE, at Dunfermline. - "He departed this life at Dunfermline, the 27th day of May, and was interred there." (*Balf. An. Scot. vol. I p. 410*) "The 27 day of Maii, Robert Duck of Kintyre, deceasit at Dunfermling." (*Bir. Diary; Frag. Scot. Hist. vol. I p. 55.*) This prince as only 14 weeks old at the time of his death. Probably he was interred in the vault outside the south-east corner of the Old Church. This vault was given to Sir Henry Wardlaw, of Pitreavie by the King and Queen, in 1616. (*Annals of Dunf. p. 260*)

## A GREAT MANY MORE PERSONS OF NOTE VIZ;-

### ABBOTS, CLERGY &c.

- 1178 GAUFRID II, Abbot of Dunfermline, died this year. He was Abbot 24 years. His name appears as a witness in several Charters in *Registrum de Dunfermline*, as also in Charters in other Abbeys, &c. Probably he was interred at Dunfermline. (*Chal. Hist. Dunf. vol. i. p. 180; vol. ii. p. 218.*)
- 1180 MALCOLM EARL OF FIFE AND HIS COUNTESS, The Church of Moulin in Perthshire, was bequeathed to Dunfermline Abbey by Malcolm (the second), Earl of Athole. The Charter of Conveyance is in Print, *Regist. de Dunf. p. 85*, and is titled "Malcolmus Comes Atholie; De Ecclia de Molin." The date is not known with accuracy, but A.D. 1180 appears to be the probable date. The Earl and his Countess appoint Dunfermline Abbey to be the place of their sepulture. (*Annals of Dunf. p. 61-62.*)
- 1184 ANDREW BISHOP OF CAITHNESS, (formerly Culdean Abbot of Dunkeld) - died at Dunfermline 30th December. (*Chal. Hist. Dunf. vol. 1 p. 493.*)
- 1303 SIR WILLIAM WALLACE'S MOTHER, from this period downward to the to the present time a tradition has held its ground that the mother of Wallace died at Dunfermline on one of her son's flights, and that she was hastily buried at a spot, now in the northern churchyard, marked by a thorn tree. This site was that of the Abbey Weeping Cross (the Churchyard Weeping Cross), which at the time of the Reformation, was destroyed and the Gospel tree or thorn erected in its stead on the site. The same thing was, with few exceptions, in all other places &c. (*Annals of Dunf. p. 109*)
- 1332 THOMAS RANDOLPH EARL OF MORAY, AND REGENT OF SCOTLAND, died suddenly at Musselburgh, on 20th July, 1332, when he was poisoned by an insidious monk, and was interred below the Lady Chapel at Dunfermline Abbey, according to the directions he had given in his Charter of date 1321. He was Regent of Scotland from the death of King Robert, the Bruce, to the date of his untimely fate. He was married to the sister of King Robert, and consequently was the King's brother-in-law. The great Randolph was one of the "commanding leaders" on the field of Bannockburn in 1314. "His death was the cause of great sorrow and lamentation." (*Vide Barbour-á-Pinkerton, vol. iii. p. 179; Fordun, ii. p. 29; &c.*) The precise spot where the remains of Randolph were interred is not known, but it would appear it was somewhere within the area of the present Session-House of the New Abbey Church. A memorial should here be erected to his memory. (*Annals of Dunf. p.131*)

- 1360 WILLIAM RAMSAY, (14th) Earl of Fife, died about this period and was interred in the Abbey of Dunfermline. (*Chal. Hist. Dunf. vol. i. p. 133.*)
- 1419 ROBERT STUART, *Duke of Albany Earl of Fife, and Regent of Scotland*, died in 1419, and was buried in the Abbey of Dunfermline. (*Heron's Hist. Scot. vol. ii. p. 206; Chal. Hist. Dunf. vol. i. p. 133.*)
- 1448 THE BODY OF A CHILD FOUND, Boece, in his *History of Scotland*, notes that in "this yeare, while pulling down the royall wallis at Dunfermling, the bodie of ane young chyld was found in ane heap of leid, rompled up in Sandill, als fresch and vncorrupted, and als weill in cullor as the fyrst hour it was buried. This was judged of thame tht had curiositie of old antiquities, to be the sone of Queine Margaret, quha deceist in his infancie." (*Hect. Boece's Hist. Scot. date 1448; Lindsay's Chron. Scot. vol. i. pp. 61, 62; Chamb. Gaz. Scot. art. "Dunfermline," &c.*)
- 1486 WILLIAM BROWN, the eminent theologian and poet, of Dunfermline, appears to have died about this period, aged about 90. There are several versions of Dunbar's poem on "The Death of the Makirs" (Poets). (*Annals of Dunf. p.167*)
- 1499 ROBERT HENRYSONE, POET, Schoolmaster in Dunfermline, It is thought not improbable that Henrysoun, and old and infirm man (then about 75 years old) would be carried off by the plague in Dunfermline in 1499; Plague and dysentery together were likely the complaints of which he died. (*Annals of Dunf. p. 175*)
- 1508 JOHANNES SCOTT, On a gravestone, in thee pavement of the original Choir, viz..., near the middle of the entre flagstones in the Auld Kirk, there will be found the name - "*JOHANNES SCOTT*" M<sup>o</sup>V<sup>c</sup> VIII. There have been many surmises as to whose remains are here indicated, but without any result; as this stone is so near the site of the Old Rood Altar, it would appear that he must have been a man of position. Dr Chalmers, in his *History of Dunfermline* (vol. i. p. 123), says, "It is believed to be the now oldest legible inscription on the once lettered pavement of the Abbey Church." (*Annals of Dunf. p. 185*)
- 1522 ANDREW FORMAN, *Abbot of Dunfermline*, died, and was interred at Dunfermline. (*Keith's Scot. Bishops pp. 35, 146; Morton's Annals, pp. 298, 299; Pitscottie's Hist. Scot. p. 254.*) He was Prior of the Isle of May; was Bishop of Moray in 1501; and held at the same time the Priories of Coldingham and Pittenweem and was Commendator of Dryburgh in 1512 &c. (*Annals of Dunf. p. 188*)
- 1565 GEORGE DURY, Ex-Abbot of Dunfermline, appears to have died early in 1565. (*Vide MSS, of General Hutton Advo. Li. Edin.*) Some authors differ in opinion as to the year of Dury's death, as also regarding the place of his decease and where interred. (Tombstone in Auld Kirk Dunfermline) (*Annals of Dunf. p. 213*) The Craigluscar burial place, north side of the Nave.

- 1577 BURIAL OF THE YOUNG LAIRD OF ROSYTHER, in the Kirk of Dunfermline, against the Statues of General Assembly &c. "No farther notice appears to have been minuted regarding this fray, so it is likely that his remains would be allowed to rest in peace - R.I.P." (*Annals of Dunf. p. 219*)
- 1584 ROBERT PITCAIRN, *the First Commendator of Dunfermline Archdeacon of St Andrews, and Secretary of State for Scotland*, died age 64, on the 8th October, 1584, and was interred in the north-east angle of the nave of the Abbey. (*Spottis; Hist. Ch. Scot.*) From preceding notes referring to him, it will be seen that he was a very important personage in his day. His later years, however were clouded with many trials. His tomb is in the Abbey nave. (*Annals of Dunf. p. 225*)
- 1592 JAMES MURRAY, of *Perdewis*, was a man of considerable note in his day, and held the lands of Perdewis, south of the nethertown of Dunfermline. He was indicated along with the Earls of Mar, Angus, and other noblemen, in the affair of the "Raid of Stirling." He had, along with others in this conspiracy, to fly the country. He obtained pardon for "the offence," in 1584; and died on his estate on 28th September 1592, and was interred in Dunfermline, where his tombstone is to be seen in a lumber comer, near the south tower of the Church. (*See Chal. Hist. of Dunf. vol. ii. p. 150; &c.*)
- 1598 MR DAVID FERGUSON, *first Protestant minister of Dunfermline*, died there on the 23rd of April 1598, in the 65th year of his age and the 38th of his ministry. (*Kirk session Rec;; Fernie's Hist. Dunf. p. 31, &c.*)
- 1602 WILLIAM SCHAW, "*Master of the Works*," William Schaw architect to King James IV, died on the 18th of April, this year. He was an accomplished man and "held in the highest esteem by is sovereign, and by all who was honoured with his friendship." His monument, a very massive one, was reared about his grave, "*behind the pulpit-pillar*." In 1794 the monumental tomb was removed, and, in a detached state, placed with "*the bell-ringer's place at the bottom of the steeple*" where, in the same state it still remains. The reason given for is removal was, that "the upper part of it interfered with the light of one of the widows, and thereby prevented much of the light falling on the pulpit-bible. (*Annals of Dunf. p. 258*)
- 1727 ELIZABETH HALKETT, *reputed authoress of the ballad "Hardy-Knute"*. She was married in 1696 to Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie and according to Fernie, was interred in the Pitreavie burying-vault, on the south-east angle of the Auld Kirk. (*See Fernie's His. Dunf. p. 105; also And Dunf. dates 1263, 1616, 1702, 1719, &c.*)
- 1763 ADAM ROLLAND ESQ., of Gask. He died on 21st July 1763, aged 57 years and was interred at Dunfermline. On the east wall of the north porch of the church there is a large marble tablet, having on it in Latin inscription &c. (*Annals of Dunf. p. 478*)

1766 STONE COFFIN - FEMALE SKELETON, &c., DISCOVERED - The *Scots Magazine* of July, 1766, contains the following notice: - "About the middle of May (preceding), as some labourers were digging in the spot where the east part of the Church stood, they discovered a human body entire, which appeared to be that of a female. It was enclosed in a stone coffin, covered with three large stones, on which could easily be discovered a crucifix, with some other figures or letters, so much defaced as not to be understood. Several gentlemen of the neighbourhood have visited this curiosity, and from various circumstances, have reason to believe it to be the body of Queen Margaret, who was buried at Dunfermline, and who was afterwards canonized, and known by the name of St Margaret." The country antiquaries of 1766 were young in the "science of archæology." Instead of the body being that of St Margaret, it is more likely to have been that of Elizabeth the Queen, consort of King Robert the Bruce, because the site which was then being prepared as a place of sepulture for the Elgin family, was contiguous to Elizabeth's grave. (*Annals of Dunf. p. 485*)

In oldest part of the church.

1774 REV. THOS GILLESPIE, b. Clearburn Duddingston 1708, ordained Northampton inducted Carnock 1741, deposed 1752, founder Relief church, d.19.1.1774. (*Fasti v. 10; Small I 358; Jervise 1143.*) (*Monumental Inscriptions by Mr & Mrs Mitchell p. 140.*)

1745 PITFIRANE FAMILY, from 14th century buried in the adjacent burying ground ; removed 1818 and placed near here; Sir Peter Halkett and Family. (*Monumental Inscriptions by Mr & Mrs Mitchell p. 140.*)

1762 REV JOHN GRAY, his wife Sophia Stedman. 4.5. 1762 marito super vixit 17 annos (*Fasti v. 29*) (*Monumental Inscriptions by Mr & Mrs Mitchell p. 140.*)

1785 WM MORRIES ESQ., of Brieryhill 1785, son of Em of same 1799, 23 years (*Monumental Inscriptions by Mr & Mrs Mitchell p. 140.*)

1848 TWO STONE COFFINS, near the west door attract attention. They were found in 1849 in the Royal Sepulchre, in the place where princes Edward and Ethelred, sons of Malcolm and Margaret, were supposed to have been buried. In one of the coffins when opened lay some large and decayed bones. The other contained a leathern shroud, believed to have encased the remains of Edward, eldest son of Malcolm Canmore and Queen Margaret (*now in the Antiquarian Museum, Edinburgh*) laced on the breast, closely stitched with a strong thong from neck to heel and along the soles of the feet, and enclosing some fragments of bones and a little hair of dark colour. (*The Journal Guide to Dunfermline P.87*)

1855 STONE COFFINS DISCOVERED, Several stone coffins were found on 12th January whilst a grave was being dug for the remains of Ex-Provost Kinnis, at the south-east corner of Abbey Church. (*Newspapers.*) (*Annals of Dunf. p. 670*)

Note: - The Wardlaw Family Tomb is also part of the Nave.