

Notable Dates in Scottish History

- 80 Julius Agricola begins his conquest of present-day Scotland (Caledonia). His fleet confirms that Britain is an island.
- 360 Roman literature describes the warring tribe based in Ireland as the "Scots".
- 368 The Pict, Scot, and Saxon tribes attack the Romans in London and plunder their treasures.
- 503 The Scots leave Ireland and build their kingdom of Dalriada in Argyll on the West coast of Scotland.
- 597 St. Columba died.
- 843 Kenneth MacAlpin unites the Scots and Picts as one nation, the first step in creating a united Scotland.
- 1034 Duncan, already ruler of Strathclyde, kills his grandfather Malcolm II and becomes King of a (largely) united Scotland. 1040 MacBeth kills Duncan and becomes King. 1057 Malcolm III (or Malcolm Canmore) kills MacBeth and becomes King.
- 1107 On the death of Edgar, Scotland becomes disunited. Alexander I becomes King of Scots, but David I becomes King in Lothian and Strathclyde.
- 1124 Unity was restored when, on Alexander's death, David becomes King of Scots. His reign is one of the most important in Scotland's history, extending Scottish borders to the River Tees, including all of Northumberland.
- 1295 Signing of the "Auld Alliance" between Scotland and France - one of the world's oldest mutual defence treaties.
- 1296 Annexation of Scotland by England. Scotland's Coronation Stone - the "Stone of Destiny" or "Stone of Scone" - was removed to Westminster Abbey (in London) by the English King Edward I. The stone was temporarily returned to Scotland in 1950 and permanently returned in 1996.
- 1314 Battle of Bannockburn (Scots under Robert the Bruce routed the English led by Edward II) resulting in Scottish independence.
- 1320 The Declaration of Arbroath was drawn up to urge the Pope to recognize Scottish independence from England. The Pope accepted the Declaration.
- 1411 University of St. Andrews founded.
- 1451 University of Glasgow founded.
- 1494 University of Aberdeen founded.
- 1502 King Henry VII of England gave his daughter in marriage to James IV of Scotland. This gave rise to the Union of the Crowns in 1603.
- 1512 Under the terms of a treaty with France (the "Auld Alliance") all Scottish citizens became French and vice versa.
- 1559 John Knox's sermon at Perth - regarded as the start of the Reformation in Scotland.
- 1582 University of Edinburgh founded. 1600 Scotland adopts Gregorian Calendar.
- 1603 James VI of Scotland becomes James I of England bringing about the Union of the Crowns.
- 1607 The Plantation of Ireland begins (following the Nine years War, 1594-1603, and the Flight of the Earls, 1607), bringing some 80,000 Scots and English to Ulster (northeastern Ireland).
- 1607 The Virginia Plantation at Jamestown begins.
- 1642 Civil war breaks out in England. The Scottish Covenanters side with the English rebels who take power. The Earl of Montrose had sided with King Charles so civil strife also spilled into Scotland.
- 1649-1653 The Cromwellian Plantation of Ireland displaces Scots-Irish who had sided with the royals.
- 1650-1680 Scots settle in Virginia.
- 1682 The National Library of Scotland was founded. Now one of the UK's four copyright deposit libraries.
- 1690s Famine in Scotland. Thousands emigrate to Ireland and abroad.
- 1695 Bank of Scotland founded (still operating to this day).
- 1693 William and Mary College founded. (The Sir Christopher Wren Building was completed in 1697. It is the oldest academic building in continuous use in the U.S., and classes are still taught within its walls.)
- 1707 Act of Union is passed; Scotland formally united with England to form Great Britain. In so doing, the Scottish Parliament voted itself out of existence.
- 1768 The first edition of the "Encyclopaedia Britannica" was published in Edinburgh by William Smellie.
- 1776 The 13 Colonies had 2.5 million people. The English speakers were either English or Scots-Irish, but there were also many Germans and Africans.