

Connecticut

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Knighly News

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Greetings my Fellow Soldiers in Christ;
Sir Knights and Ladies! I say Ladies because as it turns out I have more Ladies reading my articles sometimes than Sir Knights!! I thank the Ladies for their readership! Thanks Corrine!

In our discussion of the 12 Best medieval Knights we left off with **"Richard I"** known as **"the Lionhearted"**! Our next most famous Knight is **"Sir William Wallace!"** Wallace was born in Elderslie in 1270 and died a gruesome death in 1305! On a personal note my Aunt Marlene on my Fathers side had produced proof from a genealogy done by one of her Uncles that, we are distant descendants of the **"Wallace Clan"**! I had Informed the Sir knights of Washington #1 of this and jokingly said; "I need a bigger sword" so, they provided me at my Reception with a Claymore! Thank you, Sir Knights, for the wonderful Reception and the sword! Back to Wallace! He was a Scottish Knight who fought for independence from England. His first attack of any significance was on Lanark in Scotland in the year 1297 when a English Sheriff was killed for the brutal killing of Wallace's wife Marion. Soon after more raids were done against other English garrisons, after which Wallace would retreat to the Highlands! Wallace's biggest victory was the defeat of an English Army at the Battle of "Stirling" in 1297. Wallace's tactic was to use a narrow bridge, to block the enemy and there fell over 100 British Knights! After this victory Wallace was Knighted by? It is believed by "Robert the Bruce" who was to become the Scottish King. Wallace became a guardian of the Scottish Government. Sir William Wallace bravely lead raids into Northern England, this led to heavy losses by Wallace to an English army of Cavalry and archers at the battle of "Falkirk" in 1298. For seven years Wallace was able to avoid capture from the English King **"Edward I"**. But in the year 1305 Wallace was caught in Glasgow and dragged to London! Were the most gruesome of penalties was meted out! He was hanged, drawn and quartered! I guess being a martyr is not always an easy way to go! While writing this article I remember Mel Gibson's Roles and the stories related in movies "The Patriot" and "Braveheart" and see some similarities in these stories! Although I am not convinced of the historical accuracy of the story told in the movie "The Patriot"? Our next most famous Medieval Knight is **"Sir James Douglas"** he lived from 1286-1330 Douglas was also a Scottish Knight! He was given the nickname "The Black Douglas" by the English! In contrast Douglas's own people called him "Good Sir James" I guess everything has a different perspective depending on which side you're on! In the year 1307, Douglas recaptured Douglas Castle which was taken from his family by the English King **"Edward I"** who gave it to a noble! Douglas attacked on all days! Palm Sunday! While many were at Church! Those captured were beheaded and the bodies were burned in a huge fire!

This raid was afterward referred to as "The Douglas larder". Another one of Douglas's raids was done on "Shove Tuesday" in the year 1314 When he captured "Roxburgh Castle"! again, he attacked while they were feasting on the last day before Lent! Sir James was soon Knighted and fought with "Robert Bruce" and gained the most famous victory at "Bannockburn" in the year 1314 For years after that Sir James raided the North of England, while performing these raids one of his most notable victims was "Robert Neville" of Middleham in 1318! Middleham was known by the Scots as "The Peacock of the North" In the year of 1327 Sir James came close to capturing the English King **"Edward III"** Sir James Douglas was credited with some 70 victories. Douglas was said to have been killed by Saracens in Andalusia in 1330 while he was on his way to the Holy Lands to bury the Heart of Robert Bruce! He had promised to do that! Like all good Knights Douglas was a man of his word and died trying! As a Result, Robert Bruce's heart was placed at the Melrose abbey in Scotland.

As we read this article, having just mentioned the Holy Land, let us think of, and Pray for, the safe return of our own Minister who is visiting the Holy Land! Father Timothy Squier who we have sent there as part of the **"Holy Land Pilgrimage"** Program! We thank the Chairman of the Holy land Pilgrimage Sir Knight and Past Grand Commander William L. Miller II, and the other members of his committee for their hard work in finding and arranging this trip for Tim! We hope he has a wonderful tour of the Holy Sites and returns to us with stories, and beaming with the Holy spirit! Which will propel him even further in his Ministry.

"Live Templary, Be of Service"

Michael E. Seamon, KTCH
Grand Commander



**Happy Valentines day to
all our Ladies
from the Officers of the
Grand Commandery**