

Timeline of Scottish History. One: Foundation

BEFORE SCOTLAND	
c10,000BC	Ice age ends, nomadic people follow migrating herds into Scotland.
c8,000BC	Scotland's oldest known monument built, a lunar calendar at Crathes.
c6,200BC	Storegga Slides tsunami inundates east coast.
c4,000BC	Farmers arrive. First known houses at Knap of Howar.
c2,000BC	Bronze tools and weapons, gold jewellery introduced.
c800BC	Iron tools and weapons introduced. Climate worsens, and marginal farmland abandoned.
c325BC	Pytheas, an explorer from Marseille, visits Northern Scotland, and leaves first written description.
AD43	Romans invade Southern Britain.
cAD70	Roman governor Cerialis reaches Scotland, builds forts on Gask Ridge.
AD83	Agricola defeats Caledonians at Mons Graupius.
122	Construction begins of Hadrian's Wall between Solway and Tyne.
142	Construction begins of Antonine Wall across Central Scotland.
162	Antonine Wall abandoned for Hadrian's Wall.
208-211	Emperor Severus invades Caledonia.
297	First mention of Picts in relation to raids over Hadrian's Wall.
367	Barbarian Conspiracy of Picts, Scots, Attacotti and Saxons overwhelms Southern Britain.
397	Traditional foundation date of Scotland's earliest church, St Ninian's at Whithorn.
410	Roman legions withdrawn permanently from Britain.

c430	Cunedda leads a band of warriors from the Forth to expel Irish invaders in North Wales.
449	Traditional arrival date of Saxon warbands in Southern Britain, invited by the Britons to fight the Picts.
500	Fergus Mor Mac Erc of the kingdom of Dal Riata moves his seat of power across the sea from Antrim in Ireland to Argyll in Scotland.
547	Reign begins of Isa, first Anglian king of Bernicia in Northumberland.
c550	St Kentigern founds church at Glasgow.
563	St Columba founds Iona Abbey.
565	St Columba has audience with King Bridei Mac Maelchon at Inverness; given permission to evangelise the Picts.
580s	Urien of Rheged forms a Christian alliance to defeat pagan Angles of Bernicia; nearly successful; but assassinated by jealous rival.
600	Mynyddog Mwynfawr of Lothian leads warband against the Angles of Bernicia; defeated.
603	Aedan of Dal Riata leads warband against Angles of Bernicia; defeated.
600s	Angles under Aethelfrith expand across Northern England and Southern Scotland; converted to Christianity by Columban monks.
637	Battle of Mag Rath. Domnall Brecc of Dal Riata loses control of Antrim through battle with High King of Ireland. Dal Riata now a purely Scottish kingdom.
664	Synod of Whitby. Angles of Northumbria reject Columbans in favour of Roman style of worship.
670	Battle of Two Rivers. Angles defeat Southern Picts near Falkirk.
685	Battle of Linn Garan. Picts defeat Angles and kill King Ecgfrith. Anglian expansion halted and reversed.
717	Nechtan, King of the Picts, writes to Angles to send masons to build Roman-style churches; ejects Columbans from Pictland.
729	Angus mac Fergus defeats rivals to become King of Picts.
740	Angus mac Fergus attacks Northumbria.
741	The 'Smiting of Dal Riata' by Angus mac Fergus. The Gaels of the west come under Pictish rule.

756	Angus combines with Northumbrians to attack Britons of Dumbarton.
795	Vikings from Norway sack Iona Abbey.
c800	Norse completely overrun Pictish Orkney and Shetland.
839	Pictish and Dalriadan kings killed in battle with Norse.
THE BIRTH OF SCOTLAND	
843	Kenneth MacAlpin, King of Dal Riata, becomes King of Picts as well. Traditional first King of Scots.
c860	Ketil Flatnose, first Norse Lord of the Isles.
870	Norse sack Dumbarton; citadel abandoned by the Britons.
c880	Sigurd the Mighty, Jarl of Orkney, annexes Sutherland and Caithness to Norway.
c890	Ketil's daughter Aud the Deep Minded founds first Christian settlement on Iceland.
900-943	Reign of Constantine II.
904	Constantine inflicts pivotal defeat on Norse at Strathcarron.
927	Constantine submits to Athelstan, first King of the English, at Eamont in Cumbria.
934	Athelstan invades Scotland.
937	Constantine attacks Athelstan at Battle of Dunbrunde. English victory.
945	Malcolm I, King of Scots, gains Cumbria in a pact to aid Edmund of England against the Danes, who have recaptured much of Eastern England.
c960	Edinburgh falls under the rule of Scottish king.
c1000	Bears become extinct in Scotland.
c1010	Thorfinn Karlsefni's expedition to North America with Scots Haki and Hekja.
1013	Danes conquer England.
1018	Malcolm II wins Battle of Carham against Northumbrians. The northern half of Bernicia, East Lothian and the Merse, become Scottish.
1040	Malcolm II's grandson Duncan killed by Macbeth.

1057	Macbeth killed by Duncan's son, Malcolm III.
1066	Norman conquest of England.
1069	Fleeing from the Normans, the legitimate heir to English throne is blown off course and lands in Scotland. His sister, St Margaret, turns the King of Scots head and they marry.
1072	Normans invade Scotland; Malcolm promises not to attack England, and hands over his son by a previous marriage as hostage.
1080	Newcastle built in defence against continuing Scottish attacks on Northumbria.
1093	Normans build castle of Carlisle in Malcolm III's lands of Cumbria. Malcolm invades and is killed in battle.
1098	Scots and Norwegians agree that all the islands that Norwegian king Magnus can sail round belong to Norway. Magnus claims Kintyre by having his boat hauled over the narrow isthmus connecting it with the mainland.
1124-1153	Reign of King David I, son of St Margaret. Standardised weights and coinage, invited Normans to settle in return for service to the crown, and founded Scotland's first royal burghs, including Berwick.
1138	David loses Battle of the Standard to the men of Yorkshire, but due to anarchy in England gains control of England north of the Rivers Tees and Ribble anyway.
1157	Northern England returns to English control.
1158	Somerled wins all of Hebrides and Argyll in battle.
1160	Independently-minded Fergus of Galloway brought to heel.
1164	Somerled assassinated before giving battle against Scottish king at Renfrew.
1174	King William the Lion captured invading Northumberland. Imprisoned in Normandy and forced to submit to English king in return for his release.
1174-85	Lords of Galloway hold Galloway against Scottish king.
1181-87	MacWilliams raise the north against William.
1189	Quitclaim of Canterbury. English king, looking to raise money, sells his claim on Scotland back to King William, who has regained control of Galloway and Moray.

1216	Alexander II invades England in support of Magna Carta barons; reaches Dover. MacWilliams rebel.
1222	Scottish-appointed Bishop of Caithness burned alive by supporters of Jarl of Orkney, who also claims Caithness.
1230	Last MacWilliam killed by Alexander II.
1237	Arbitrated by the Pope, Alexander II and English king agree current line of Anglo-Scottish border.
1249	Alexander II dies whilst attempting to bring the Hebrides under his control.
1263	Battle of Largs between Alexander III and Haakon IV of Norway. Result inconclusive, but Haakon dies soon after.
1266	Treaty of Perth. Norway cedes Hebrides to Scotland, in return for acknowledgement that Orkney and Shetland remain Norwegian.
1286	Alexander III dies in a riding accident whilst on his way to a rendezvous with his new bride.
THE WARS OF INDEPENDENCE	
1290	Heir to the throne, the Maid of Norway, dies in Orkney on her way to Scotland. Bruces, supported by Stewarts, and Balliols, supported by Comyns, threaten civil war. Scots invite Edward I of England to adjudicate.
1292	Edward proclaims John Balliol King of Scots - but only if he accepts Edward as his overlord.
1296	Scots refuse to provide an army to Edward to fight the French, and make alliance with France against England instead. Edward invades, deposes John, captures Berwick.
1297	William Wallace defeats English at Stirling Bridge.
1298	Wallace defeated by Edward I at Falkirk.
1304	Scottish nobility surrender to Edward.
1305	Wallace captured and executed in London.
1306	Robert the Bruce murders Comyn rival and claims Scottish crown. Defeated by Comyns and Macdougalls and flees Scotland.
1307	Bruce returns. First small victories against occupying forces. Edward I dies.
1308	Bruce defeats Comyns at Battle of Inverurie and Macdougalls at Pass of Brander.

1311	Bruce retreats in face of English army and burns and extorts Northern England.
1314	Battle of Bannockburn. Bruce defeats Edward II.
1315	Bruce invades Ireland.
1318	Berwick recaptured. Bruce's brother dies in Ireland.
1320	Declaration of Arbroath.
1327	Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton. English acknowledge Scottish independence.
1329	Robert the Bruce dies.
1332	Edward Balliol, son of John Balliol, invades Scotland with English help.
1333	Edward Balliol and Edward III of England win battle of Halidon Hill.
1334-38	Scots send young King David II to France for safekeeping and fight back against Edward Balliol.
1337	Start of Hundred Years War. English king becomes preoccupied with war in France instead of Scotland.
1341	David II returns to Scotland.
1346	Battle of Neville's Cross. David captured near Durham when invading England. Scots refuse ransom terms and David remains in captivity.
1350	The Black Death arrives in Scotland.
1356	'Burnt Candlemas' the final English invasion of Scotland for several years. English fleet destroyed by storms.
1357	David II finally released after an agreement made on his ransom.
THE STEWART DYNASTY	
1371	David II dies childless. Stewart dynasty begins.
1388	Scottish victory on English soil at Otterburn.
1402	Scottish defeat on English soil at Homildon Hill.
1406	Death of Robert III, 'Here lies the worst of kings and the most wretched of men.' His young son James I is captured by English on his way to France.
1410-13	Foundation of St Andrews University.

1411	Battle of Harlaw. Lowlanders under Earl of Mar prevent the Highland MacDonalDs from sacking Aberdeen.
1424	James I begins personal rule and seeks to raise more tax than Parliament is comfortable with.
1435	Failed attempt by nobles to arrest James in Parliament.
1437	James assassinated by disgruntled nobles.
1440	The 'Black Dinner'. Earl of Douglas assassinated in front of minor James II.
1451	Foundation of Glasgow University.
1460	James II dies in an accident while besieging English garrison in Roxburgh.
1469	Marriage of James III. as dowry, his wife Maragrethe brings Orkney and Shetland.
1472	Orkney and Shetland formally annexed to the Scottish crown.
1482	Debacle at Lauder Bridge. James III falls out with his nobles and with his brother, who invades with an English army. English capture Berwick.
1488	Battle of Sauchieburn. James III killed by his nobles.
1495	Foundation of Aberdeen University.
1503	James IV marries Margaret Tudor.
1505	Royal College of Surgeons founded.
1508	Chepman & Myllar of Southgait, Edinburgh, open first printing press in Scotland.
1513	James IV invades England; killed at the Battle of Flodden alongside ten of his earls.