

= Malcolm II of Scotland =

Malcolm ( Gaelic : Máel Coluim ; died 25 November 1034 ) , was King of the Scots from 1005 until his death . He was a son of King Kenneth II ; the Prophecy of Berchán says that his mother was a woman of Leinster and refers to him as Forranach , " the destroyer " .

To the Irish annals which recorded his death , Malcolm was ard rí Alban , High King of Scotland . In the same way that Brian Bóruma , High King of Ireland , was not the only king in Ireland , Malcolm was one of several kings within the geographical boundaries of modern Scotland : his fellow kings included the king of Strathclyde , who ruled much of the south @-@ west , various Norse @-@ Gael kings on the western coast and the Hebrides and , nearest and most dangerous rivals , the kings or Mormaers of Moray . To the south , in the Kingdom of England , the Earls of Bernicia and Northumbria , whose predecessors as kings of Northumbria had once ruled most of southern Scotland , still controlled large parts of the southeast .

= = Early years = =

Malcolm II was born to Kenneth II of Scotland . He was grandson of Malcolm I of Scotland . In 997 , the killer of Constantine is credited as being Kenneth , son of Malcolm . Since there is no known and relevant Kenneth alive at that time ( King Kenneth having died in 995 ) , it is considered an error for either Kenneth III , who succeeded Constantine , or , possibly , Malcolm himself , the son of Kenneth II . Whether Malcolm killed Constantine or not , there is no doubt that in 1005 he killed Constantine 's successor Kenneth III in battle at Monzievaird in Strathearn .

John of Fordun writes that Malcolm defeated a Norwegian army " in almost the first days after his coronation " , but this is not reported elsewhere . Fordun says that the Bishopric of Mortlach ( later moved to Aberdeen ) was founded in thanks for this victory over the Norwegians .

= = Children = =

Malcolm demonstrated a rare ability to survive among early Scottish kings by reigning for twenty @-@ nine years . He was a clever and ambitious man . Brehon tradition provided that the successor to Malcolm was to be selected by him from among the descendants of King Aedh , with the consent of Malcolm 's ministers and of the church . Ostensibly in an attempt to end the devastating feuds in the north of Scotland , but obviously influenced by the Norman feudal model , Malcolm ignored tradition and determined to retain the succession within his own line . But since Malcolm had no son of his own , he undertook to negotiate a series of dynastic marriages of his three daughters to men who might otherwise be his rivals , while securing the loyalty of the principal chiefs , their relatives . First he married his daughter Bethoc to Crinan , Thane of The Isles , head of the house of Atholl and secular Abbot of Dunkeld ; then his youngest daughter , Olith , to Sigurd , Earl of Orkney . His middle daughter , Donada , was married to Finlay , Earl of Moray , Thane of Ross and Cromarty and a descendant of Loarn of Dalriada . This was risky business under the rules of succession of the Gael , but he thereby secured his rear and , taking advantage of the renewal of Viking attacks on England , marched south to fight the English . He defeated the Angles at Carham in 1018 and installed his grandson , Duncan , son of the Abbot of Dunkeld and his choice as Tanist , in Carlisle as King of Cumbria that same year .

= = Bernicia = =

The first reliable report of Malcolm II 's reign is of an invasion of Bernicia in 1006 , perhaps the customary crech rí ( literally royal prey , a raid by a new king made to demonstrate prowess in war ) , which involved a siege of Durham . This appears to have resulted in a heavy defeat by the Northumbrians , led by Uhtred of Bamburgh , later Earl of Bernicia , which is reported by the Annals of Ulster .

A second war in Bernicia , probably in 1018 , was more successful . The Battle of Carham , by the

River Tweed , was a victory for the Scots led by Malcolm II and the men of Strathclyde led by their king , Owen the Bald . By this time Earl Uchtred may have been dead , and Eiríkr Hákonarson was appointed Earl of Northumbria by his brother @-@ in @-@ law Cnut the Great , although his authority seems to have been limited to the south , the former kingdom of Deira , and he took no action against the Scots so far as is known . The work *De obsessione Dunelmi* ( The siege of Durham , associated with Symeon of Durham ) claims that Uchtred 's brother Eadwulf Cudel surrendered Lothian to Malcolm II , presumably in the aftermath of the defeat at Carham . This is likely to have been the lands between Dunbar and the Tweed as other parts of Lothian had been under Scots control before this time . It has been suggested that Cnut received tribute from the Scots for Lothian , but as he had likely received none from the Bernician Earls this is not very probable .

= = Cnut = =

Cnut , reports the Anglo @-@ Saxon Chronicle , led an army into Scotland on his return from pilgrimage to Rome . The Chronicle dates this to 1031 , but there are reasons to suppose that it should be dated to 1027 . Burgundian chronicler Rodulfus Glaber recounts the expedition soon afterwards , describing Malcolm as " powerful in resources and arms ? very Christian in faith and deed . " Ralph claims that peace was made between Malcolm and Cnut through the intervention of Richard , Duke of Normandy , brother of Cnut 's wife Emma . Richard died in about 1027 and Rodulfus wrote close in time to the events .

It has been suggested that the root of the quarrel between Cnut and Malcolm lies in Cnut 's pilgrimage to Rome , and the coronation of Holy Roman Emperor Conrad II , where Cnut and Rudolph III , King of Burgundy had the place of honour . If Malcolm were present , and the repeated mentions of his piety in the annals make it quite possible that he made a pilgrimage to Rome , as did Mac Bethad mac Findláich ( " Macbeth " ) in later times , then the coronation would have allowed Malcolm to publicly snub Cnut 's claims to overlordship .

Cnut obtained rather less than previous English kings , a promise of peace and friendship rather than the promise of aid on land and sea that Edgar and others had obtained . The sources say that Malcolm was accompanied by one or two other kings , certainly Mac Bethad , and perhaps Echmarcach mac Ragnail , King of Mann and the Isles , and of Galloway . The Anglo @-@ Saxon Chronicle remarks of the submission " but he [ Malcolm ] adhered to that for only a little while " . Cnut was soon occupied in Norway against Olaf Haraldsson and appears to have had no further involvement with Scotland .

= = Orkney and Moray = =

Olith a daughter of Malcolm , married Sigurd Hlodvisson , Earl of Orkney . Their son Thorfinn Sigurdsson was said to be five years old when Sigurd was killed on 23 April 1014 in the Battle of Clontarf . The Orkneyinga Saga says that Thorfinn was raised at Malcolm 's court and was given the Mormaerdom of Caithness by his grandfather . Thorfinn , says the *Heimskringla* , was the ally of the king of Scots , and counted on Malcolm 's support to resist the " tyranny " of Norwegian King Olaf Haraldsson . The chronology of Thorfinn 's life is problematic , and he may have had a share in the Earldom of Orkney while still a child , if he was indeed only five in 1014 . Whatever the exact chronology , before Malcolm 's death a client of the king of Scots was in control of Caithness and Orkney , although , as with all such relationships , it is unlikely to have lasted beyond his death .

If Malcolm exercised control over Moray , which is far from being generally accepted , then the annals record a number of events pointing to a struggle for power in the north . In 1020 , Mac Bethad 's father Findláech mac Ruaidrí was killed by the sons of his brother Máel Brigte . It seems that Máel Coluim mac Máil Brigti took control of Moray , for his death is reported in 1029 .

Despite the accounts of the Irish annals , English and Scandinavian writers appear to see Mac Bethad as the rightful king of Moray : this is clear from their descriptions of the meeting with Cnut in 1027 , before the death of Malcolm mac Máil Brigti . Malcolm was followed as king or earl by his

brother Gillecomgan , husband of Gruoch , a granddaughter of King Kenneth III . It has been supposed that Mac Bethad was responsible for the killing of Gille Coemgáin in 1032 , but if Mac Bethad had a cause for feud in the killing of his father in 1020 , Malcolm too had reason to see Gille Coemgáin dead . Not only had Gillecomgan 's ancestors killed many of Malcolm 's kin , but Gillecomgan and his son Lulach might be rivals for the throne . Malcolm had no living sons , and the threat to his plans for the succession was obvious . As a result , the following year Gruoch 's brother or nephew , who might have eventually become king , was killed by Malcolm .

= = Strathclyde and the succession = =

It has traditionally been supposed that King Owen the Bald of Strathclyde died at the Battle of Carham and that the kingdom passed into the hands of the Scots afterwards . This rests on some very weak evidence . It is far from certain that Owen died at Carham , and it is reasonably certain that there were kings of Strathclyde as late as the 1054 , when Edward the Confessor sent Earl Siward to install " Malcolm son of the king of the Cumbrians " . The confusion is old , probably inspired by William of Malmesbury and embellished by John of Fordun , but there is no firm evidence that the kingdom of Strathclyde was a part of the kingdom of the Scots , rather than a loosely subjected kingdom , before the time of Malcolm II of Scotland 's great @-@ grandson Malcolm Canmore .

By the 1030s Malcolm 's sons , if he had any , were dead . The only evidence that he did have a son or sons is in Rodulfus Glaber 's chronicle where Cnut is said to have stood as godfather to a son of Malcolm . His grandson Thorfinn would have been unlikely to be accepted as king by the Scots , and he chose the sons of his other daughter , Bethóc , who was married to Crínán , lay abbot of Dunkeld , and perhaps Mormaer of Atholl . It may be no more than coincidence , but in 1027 the Irish annals had reported the burning of Dunkeld , although no mention is made of the circumstances . Malcolm 's chosen heir , and the first tánaise rí certainly known in Scotland , was Duncan .

It is possible that a third daughter of Malcolm married Findláech mac Ruaidrí and that Mac Bethad was thus his grandson , but this rests on relatively weak evidence .

= = Death and posterity = =

Malcolm died in 1034 , Marianus Scotus giving the date as 25 November 1034 . The king lists say that he died at Glamis , variously describing him as a " most glorious " or " most victorious " king . The Annals of Tigernach report that " Malcolm mac Cináeda , king of Scotland , the honour of all the west of Europe , died . " The Prophecy of Berchán , perhaps the inspiration for John of Fordun and Andrew of Wyntoun 's accounts where Malcolm is killed fighting bandits , says that he died by violence , fighting " the parricides " , suggested to be the sons of Máel Brigte of Moray .

Perhaps the most notable feature of Malcolm 's death is the account of Marianus , matched by the silence of the Irish annals , which tells us that Duncan I became king and ruled for five years and nine months . Given that his death in 1040 is described as being " at an immature age " in the Annals of Tigernach , he must have been a young man in 1034 . The absence of any opposition suggests that Malcolm had dealt thoroughly with any likely opposition in his own lifetime .

Tradition , dating from Fordun 's time if not earlier , knew the Pictish stone now called " Glamis 2 " as " King Malcolm 's grave stone " . The stone is a Class II stone , apparently formed by re @-@ using a Bronze Age standing stone . Its dating is uncertain , with dates from the 8th century onwards having been proposed . While an earlier date is favoured , an association with accounts of Malcolm 's has been proposed on the basis of the iconography of the carvings .

On the question of Malcolm 's putative pilgrimage , pilgrimages to Rome , or other long @-@ distance journeys , were far from unusual . Thorfinn Sigurdsson , Cnut and Mac Bethad have already been mentioned . Rognvald Kali Kolsson is known to have gone crusading in the Mediterranean in the 12th century . Nearer in time , Dyfnwal of Strathclyde died on pilgrimage to Rome in 975 as did Máel Ruanaid uá Máele Doraid , King of the Cenél Conaill , in 1025 .

Not a great deal is known of Malcolm 's activities beyond the wars and killings . The Book of Deer records that Malcolm " gave a king 's dues in Biffie and in Pett Meic @-@ Gobraig , and two davochs " to the monastery of Old Deer . He was also probably not the founder of the Bishopric of Mortlach @-@ Aberdeen . John of Fordun has a peculiar tale to tell , related to the supposed " Laws of Malcolm MacKenneth " , saying that Malcolm gave away all of Scotland , except for the Moot Hill at Scone , which is unlikely to have any basis in fact .