

= Thomas de Dundee =

Thomas de Dundee , also called Thomas Nicholay , was a Scottish prelate who held the bishopric of Ross during the First War of Scottish Independence . Coming from a family of Dundee burghesses , he was educated at the University of Bologna , before entering into career in the church .

He obtained benefices in the diocese of Glasgow and the diocese of Brechin , as well as in Ross , and served as the chaplain to a cardinal before being appointed Bishop of Ross by papal provision in 1295 . After some delay , he was able to take up his position and held it until his death in early 1325 .

= = Biography = =

= = = Family background = = =

Thomas was the son of a burghess of Dundee named Nicholas . Detailed knowledge of Thomas ' father is lacking , but one " Nicholas son of Robert " is found as a burghess of Dundee in a Lindores Abbey document dated between 1237 and 1243 . Another relevant Nicholas , " Nicholas the Chaplain " , is found in 1281 residing in a Dundee tenement located next the tenement of Radulf de Dundee . It is possible both names referred to the same person , but at any rate either could have been Thomas ' father .

Another Dundee burghess family in the period produced prominent churchman , the family of Hervey de Dundee , Bishop of Caithness . There is no proof that the two families were kindred , although in the early 1310s Thomas was recorded as assisting Hervey 's brother Radulf de Dundee obtain a loan for his daughter 's marriage portion .

Thomas ' father was prosperous , wealthy enough to send Thomas to the University of Bologna in Italy . Thomas was recorded as Magister (" Master ") , i.e. possessing a Master 's degree , at Bologna in 1286 . He probably studied there alongside the aforementioned Radulf de Dundee , as well as one Michael de Dundee , whose exact family origin cannot be determined .

= = = Early career = = =

Documents dating to 18 February and 24 April 1293 , have Thomas as Subdean of Glasgow Cathedral . On the former date he was at Scone acting as proctor for the cathedral chapter of Glasgow at an arbitration conducted by Robert Wishart , Bishop of Glasgow . Thomas had this role because the dean , Thomas Wishart , was absent , having travelled to Bologna . The arbitration agreement was settled at Glasgow on the latter date .

Perhaps soon after or soon before , Thomas inspected charters of Paisley Abbey on behalf of Laurence de Ergadia , Bishop of Argyll . Here he is called Thomas Nicholay (" Thomas , son of Nicholas ") . The reports confirm that he was the Glasgow subdean but the date of the inspection can be fixed no more precisely than some time between 1286 and 1295 .

In 1295 he is found at the papal court acting as the commensalis (" table companion ") and chaplain of Cardinal Hugh Aycelin (Hugh Seguin) , the Dominican Cardinal @-@ Bishop of Ostia . Hugh was probably making use of Dundee 's training as a lawyer . At this time Thomas is said to be Dean of Brechin Cathedral . The last known dean , William , is attested in 1269 , and another dean was in possession by 24 May 1275 , but the name of this dean is not known . This person is probably not Thomas as it is unlikely that he was Dean of Brechin and Subdean of Glasgow at the same time .

= = = Election and appointment as Bishop of Ross = = =

It is possible that Thomas was still at the papal court when the cathedral chapter of the diocese of

Ross were carrying out their elections for the successor of Robert de Fyvie . Two separate elections took place in the period between 17 November 1292 and 18 November 1295 , and it appears that the chapter elected both the cathedral precentor , Adam de Darlington , as well as Thomas de Dundee , who then held a canonry in the diocese .

Both Adam de Darlington and Thomas de Dundee resigned their rights to this episcopal see , but nevertheless Cardinal Hugh Aycelin used his influence to secure Thomas papal provision as bishop on 18 November . In the following year Adam de Darlington was compensated by being appointed Bishop of Caithness , the bishopric which adjoined Ross to the north .

Perhaps because of the political troubles in Scotland at the time , there is a two @-@ year gap between Thomas receiving provision to the see and gaining its " temporalities " , i.e. gaining actual possession of the office . Scotland 's king , John de Balliol , had been in a conflict of authority with the King of the English , who deposed King John in 1296 . It was not until 31 July 1297 that the temporalities of the see were released to Thomas by King Edward I of England , probably after a meeting between Thomas and King Edward at London . According to one source King Edward had been told by Pope Boniface VIII to install Thomas as bishop , Edward proceeded to judge the matter for himself . After doing so , and having received Thomas ' oath of fealty , King Edward ordered John de Warrene , the Earl of Surrey , to install Thomas into his episcopal temporalities .

= = = Episcopate = = =

Thomas had taken up his diocese in Scotland by 17 August 1298 . On this date his seal was attached to a document which recorded the losses suffered by Scone Abbey following the Scottish rebel defeat by the English crown at the Battle of Falkirk . In the first few years of the 14th century Thomas witnessed three charters of Coupar Angus Abbey in the company of Robert Wishart , Bishop of Glasgow , a known opponent of the English crown .

He witnessed another charter relating to that abbey , between 1300 and 1302 , by John de Soules , who issued it as Guardian of Scotland acting in King John Balliol 's name . After the resurgence of English power in Scotland in 1304 Thomas can be found co @-@ operating with King Edward 's officials . In the autumn of 1305 King Edward planned a council of advisors to assist his new governor , John of Brittany , and Bishop Thomas was thought trustworthy enough to be included in this council .

It appears that Bishop Thomas remained pro @-@ English and pro @-@ Balliol after the rising in 1306 of Robert de Brus , Earl of Carrick . Bruce had himself crowned king on 25 March (becoming King Robert I of Scotland) . Bishop Thomas ' positions mirrored those of William II , Earl of Ross . On 7 December 1307 King Edward II of England was seeking Bishop Thomas ' support against King Robert .

However , the realities of de Brus power in this part of Scotland were pushed home in the following year . On 13 December 1307 King Robert secured the submission of Bishop Thomas ' temporal protector , Earl William . After this submission Bishop Thomas acted as one of the sureties for Earl William 's future loyalty . The other guarantor was David de Moravia , Bishop of Moray) .

Record of Bishop Thomas ' activity in the following years is scarce . The sources do not name him as an attendee of the St Andrews parliament of 17 March 1309 , a parliament at which many of the Scottish clergy declared their support for King Robert . However , very few prelates or churchmen were mentioned individually , so that it is not possible to conclude anything about Bishop Thomas ' attendance . He may have attended most or all of the assemblies and parliaments of the following decade , but only for the parliament held at Scone on 3 December 1318 is he specifically recorded as being present .

On 29 October 1312 he attached his seal to a treaty between King Robert and the King of Norway . Thomas was the recipient of a papal mandate issued on 1 June 1317 authorising him to give dispensation for the wrongful marriage between King Robert 's brother Edward de Brus and a daughter of Earl William of Ross . He is found on 1 November 1321 arranging to pay a loan which had been granted by Coupar Angus Abbey to Radulf de Dundee , a loan that had been granted all the way back in 1312 .

His probable last occurrence in the sources concerned a conflict with Kinloss Abbey regarding the prebendal parish church of Avoch . The parish of Avoch lay within Thomas ' diocese , but the Abbot of Kinloss claimed the primary right to possess it . A papal mandate was issued on 5 January 1325 to William de Lindores , the Chancellor of Ross , commanding him to judge the dispute . Bishop Thomas was almost certainly alive on that date , but he was dead by 17 April , when Roger , canon of Abernethy , received papal provision to the bishopric of Ross , said to be vacant by Thomas ' death .