## **Thomas Randolph**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Moray

## First Scottish War of Independence-Scotland

After the death of Margaret, Maid of Norway and heir to Alexander III, Scotland is left without a clear heir to her throne. Edward I of England wants to control the selection process and lay the foundation for his takeover of Scotland. Many believe that the Scottish throne should be controlled by one of Scotland's own people, so that Scottish independence can be maintained. While Scotland and England are officially at peace, this power vacuum has left England with ample opportunity to seize power in an area that has remained unconquered for thousands of years.

Our primary goal in this committee is to keep Scotland unified and independent from English rule. Since Alexander III was a prosperous and beloved leader, and he has no direct heir, selecting a successor could prove to be difficult. There are currently 14 contenders for the throne, many of them English. If Edward I were to get his wishes in overseeing the selection, he could easily supplant a ruler who would yield territory to England. Were we to unify all of the Scottish nobility and all lords in the area, the country would remain strong and would resist any sort of conflict with England.

I, as Chamberlain of Scotland, believe that the rightful heir should be the one with the closest proper relation to Alexander III, as per the laws of Scotland. I want to keep Scotland out of English rule, but if the law decrees that the rightful heir might be one who aligns with the English crown, then I must support them. The maintenance of Scottish law is my primary goal in this committee.