

Margaret , the Maid of Norway , who died 700+ years ago (1290 ) was the grand-daughter of King Alexander the 3rd. of Scotland. Her mother , also called Margaret , after her own mother , a sister of King Edward I of England , had been married off , in a political union , to King Eric of Norway - she was 21 years old at the time , and he only 14 ( 1281 ).

The Maid of Norway was born the following year , and her mother died soon after.

The heir to the Scottish throne was Alexander , the only son of Alexander III , but he died at age 19 , soon after his sister ~~an~~ Norway , and he left no children.

The infant Margaret thus became heir to the Scottish throne.

The Maid of Norway's grandfather , Alexander III was then a widower , and he married again hoping for another son , but the following year he was killed in a fall from his horse while riding home by night , so Margaret then became , aged three , Queen of Scots ( March 1286 ).

Without an effective ruler , Scotland fell into disarray , with Baliols , the Bruces , and the Comyns fighting for power.

In England , Edward I was scheming to unite Scotland with England , under his own rule. To this end , he decided that his son and heir , Prince Edward , must marry Margaret , Queen of Scots , in spite of the blood relationship between them - i.e. the Prince was a first cousin of the Maid's mother, and Edward obtained a dispensation from Rome , and demanded the marriage.

The Maid's father , Eric , himself only 21 years old , objected to handing over his 7 year old daughter , but he was over-ruled by his Parliament , the members of which had been heavily bribed by Edward I.

The Scottish Regents , six guardians of the realm , who feared invasion by England , and who could also see how the various factions were destroying the nation , were forced to agree to the Match , as the least of three evils.