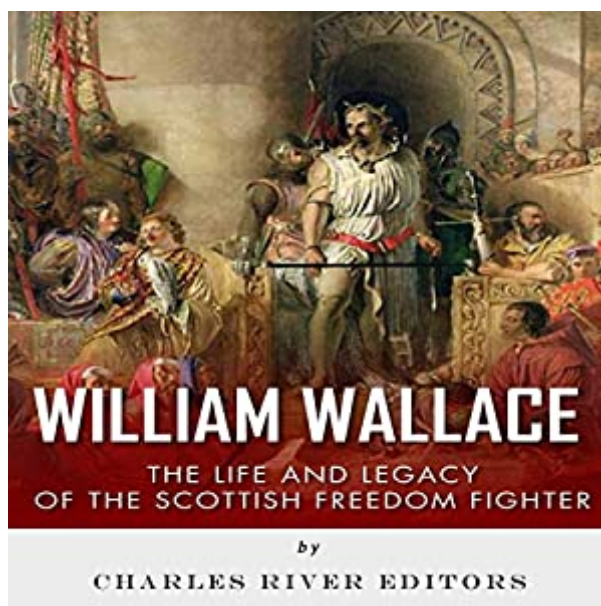


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William Wallace: The Life And Legacy Of The Scottish Freedom Fighter



Synopsis

"A false usurper sinks in every foe and liberty returns with every blow." (Blind Harry) William Wallace is one of the most famous freedom fighters in history. Over 700 years after his death he is still remembered as Scotland's beloved hero. But while the movie Braveheart helped make him a household name, and he is commemorated across Scotland as a natural leader and a loyal son of his homeland, he is also "the most mysterious of the leaders of the Scottish resistance to Edward I". This is because, paradoxically, the very famous soldier is also one of the least well known. In fact, the mystery surrounding Wallace is figuring out precisely, or even vaguely, who he was. Where did this champion of Scottish independence come from? Who were his family members? What did he do before emerging from obscurity with the brutal murder of William Heselrig, the English sheriff of Lanark, in May 1297? So little evidence on Wallace's life exists that answering even the most basic questions about him can be a challenge. That said, as one scholar perceptively notes, "the facts are not the reason why he is remembered as a meaningful historical actor". For the admirers Wallace has accumulated over the centuries, the idealized version of what he stood for - weak over strong, justice over injustice, the will of the people over the might of the powerful - is infinitely more important than the historical man himself. Similarly, his English detractors have also focused on image over substance through the years, depicting Wallace as a heartless brute, a cruel traitor, and a blood-hungry outlaw.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 1 hour 56 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Charles River Editors

Audible.com Release Date: April 22, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00WISZONA

Best Sellers Rank: #226 in Books > History > Europe > Great Britain > Scotland #691

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Europe #1393 in Books > Biographies &

Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Great Britain

Customer Reviews

This is a good overview on the person and his achievements. I like the approach of a look at the historical context, and I learned other interesting facts about British history while reading about William Wallace. Not so well known out of the English-speaking world, at least until Braveheart movie, Wallace comes out more well known, facts and legend balanced. I would highlight references to:- Blind Harry's text- the Stone of Scone- Wallace's connections with European states- the battles.

I found this 51 page coverage of the man most of us know today as Braveheart was both interesting and well researched. I also was fascinated to learn that most of the legend came as a result of an epic poem. Probably the best value of William Wallace: The Life and Legacy of the Scottish Freedom Fighter is that it makes me hungry to learn more about this tragic hero.

Was Robert the Bruce the "hero of Scotland" - after reading this book, I am inclined to say 'no' - Wallace was - I saw the movie 'Braveheart' and, knowing what Hollywood feels about history getting in the way of a good story enjoyed, but was not 100% 'seduced' by it (just accepted it as a great movie, along with its historical inaccuracies) - but, if this book is totally factual, Wallace WAS the hero of Scotland.

An honorable and loyal son of Scotland should never be forgotten. Wallace is a perfect example of someone fighting for what is one of the most important part of being a human being, freedom. Scots should keep the fighting up and stand up for their freedom. Too many Scots, sons and daughters have given too much throughout history to ignore their sacrifice.

Anyone interested in Scottish history or is a fan of the movie Braveheart should read this because it gives the reader the true life story of William Wallace.

An overview of the life of William Wallace, a hysterical figure. A person would have to be a scholar to dig any deeper into his life. Well done.

Very Interesting Learned a lot!

This was extremely short. I expected much more detail or at least speculation. The book is not worth the fee

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