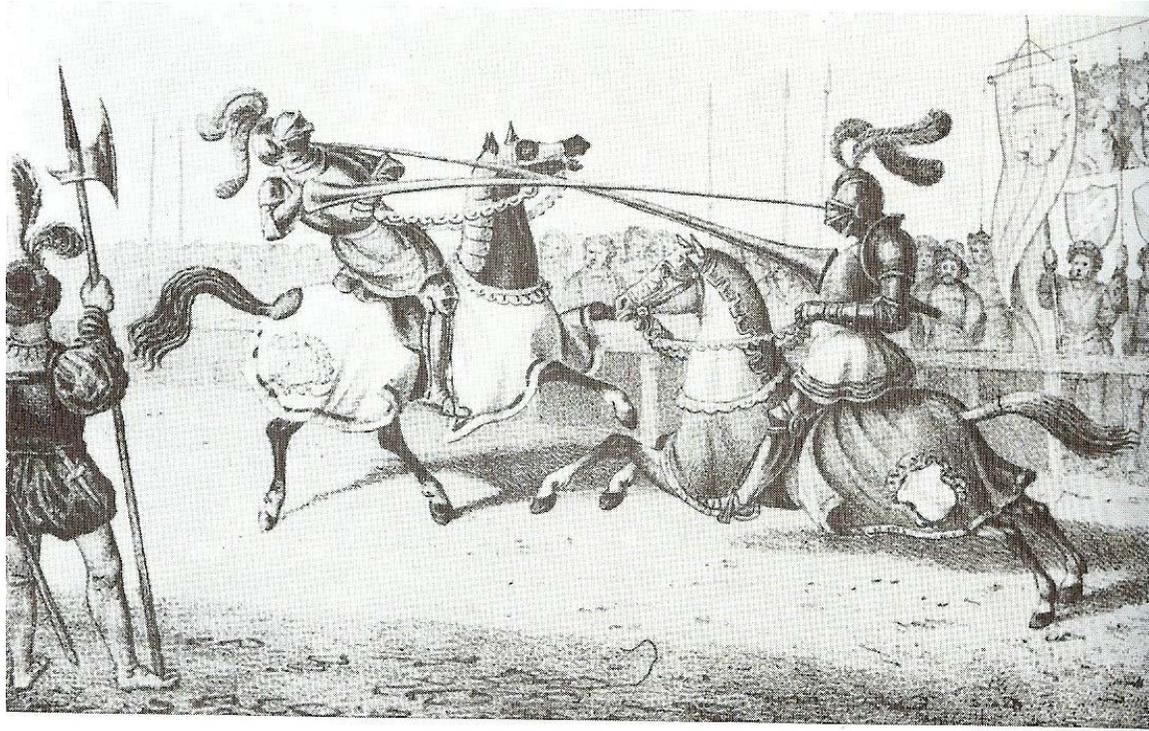


Knighthood and jousting...long ago and far away!



Hundreds of years ago, knights were a type of soldier. They protected the King and Queen and sometimes fought in wars. They wore heavy, iron armor to protect their bodies from spears and daggers. When they were not needed for wars or to protect the King and Queen, they often tested their skills and bravery by participating in jousts.

Jousting was like a game in which they wore their armor, rode horses and would run at each other with long, sharp spears. A knight used the spear to try and knock the other knight off his horse. The first knight to knock the other off his horse would then get off his horse and had the right, according to the rules, to use his dagger to slay the fallen knight.

Below is a story of a Lindsay knight. He was brave, very skilled and a kind gentleman of honor as well. Have fun!

A Tale Of A Lindsay Knight

The Duel on London Bridge

Sir David Lindsay was born in 1366. His father was Sir Alexander Lindsay of Glenesk. Sir David was reported to be one of the best soldiers in Scotland.

At the age of 25 he went to London to celebrate the Feast of St. George, the Patron Saint of England. One night at a banquet one of the guests was Lord Welles, a famous knight and soldier. Sir David Lindsay and Lord Welles got into a discussion of whether Englishmen or Scotsmen were the braver knights. Lord Welles challenged Lord Lindsay by saying, "Words have no place in this discussion. If you do not believe English knights are superior in bravery, skill and honor, meet me any day and place you choose and you will soon find out who is superior." With the honor of his country at stake, Sir David replied, "I will meet you on the field

of battle." Lord Welles named London Bridge as place and Lord Lindsay chose the Festival of St. George for the trial by combat.

Preparations for the tournament were made by both Lord Welles and Lord Lindsay. Lord Lindsay was received with great ceremony by the King, and in honor of the event, great preparation had been made at the Bridge. It was customary at such occasions to decorate with rich hangings of tapestry and cloth of gold because of the presence of the King and Queen. On the appointed day, both knights arrived at the bridge, fully dressed in their heavy, iron armor and anxious for victory.

After the usual preliminaries of kneeling before the King and Queen, the King's heralds blew their trumpets, and the knights rushed at each other with such force that both spears were broken. Lord Welles' spear was shattered on the visor of the helmet of Lord Lindsay. That Scottish knight sat so firmly in the saddle that the spectators cried out that he was "locked" or tied on to the saddle. Lord Lindsay, on hearing the charge made against him, rode up to the platform where the King and Queen were seated, and jumping out of the saddle, bowed to their Majesties, and immediately leaped back into his saddle again, although he was heavily loaded with his armor.

New spears were provided, and the combatants rushed together, and with the same result. On the third charge, having been given stronger spears, Lord Welles was knocked out of his saddle by Lord Lindsay with such force that he fell onto the ground to the great displeasure of the English.

Lord Lindsay dismounted and both knights commenced a desperate hand-to-hand combat with drawn daggers. The result was that Lord Welles was soon defeated, for Lord Lindsay, fastening his dagger between the joints of Lord Welles' armor, lifted him off his feet and threw him to the ground with great force. The King, who had been witness of the whole affair, now stepped forward and said: "Lindsay, cousin Lord Lindsay, do finish what you must do this day." Those words from the King entitled Lord Lindsay to complete the duel to the death, as the law of chivalry allowed. At this point, the spirit of mercy took hold of the victor, Lord Lindsay. Raising Lord Welles by the hand, he brought him to the Queen and presented him to her Majesty. He spoke to her like a true knight, saying, "that mercy should proceed from woman." The Queen thanked him and spared the life of Lord Welles.

Lord Lindsay stayed with Lord Welles until the doctor arrived on the scene, tenderly embracing the wounded knight. Lord Lindsay said he did that so that the people might understand he fought not for hatred but all and only for the glory of victory. He stayed for a further three months in London until Lord Welles had recovered.

[This true story was published in 1849 in a three volume set, "Lives of the Lindsays", by the Lord Lindsay of that time and was in the language of that time. I have taken the liberty of putting it into modern language so that young children can understand and enjoy the marvelous adventure.]