



## Scotland's Ain Kingly Hooses: Pairt 7

Walcome tae pairt seeven o Scotland's Ain Kingly Hooses. In this pairt we hear about the kings o Scots atween 1214 an 1286.

**Alisaunder II 1214-1249** Born 24 August 1198 at Haidintoun, East Lothian, Alisaunder II wis the son o Weelum I an Armangarda o Beaumont. He wis made king at Scoun 6 Dezember 1214, aged 16, full o foushion an ploys, an ettlin tae set richt the wrangs that Inglan haed done til his faither. He wisna lang king, tho, whan Kennet Heithson an Donal Bain MacWeelum tried tae haud-gauin wi the rising o Gothreid, but the lords o Ross focht for Alisaunder, an the rising wis defait in Moray in 1215, an Donal heidit. The kingly callant noo turnt this een on Inglan.

King Alisaunder socht the auld shires o Cumberlan an Northummerlan, an thocht tae gie the Inglis king a guid paikin, bi makkin common cause wi rebel barons o Inglan an the king o Fraunce. Throu the wunter o 1215-1216 John o Inglan invadit Lothian an brunt as he gaed. Alisaunder maircht his army sooth the length o Dover – the furdest a Scots army ever gaed in Inglan – an jyned wi King Lewis o Fraunce, but awthing chenged whan John dee'd an Lewis gaed hame. The Scots king haedna muckle tae shaw for his warslin but peace wis made in 1221. Thon same year, on 19 Juin at York, Alisaunder wis mairried on Jean Plantagenet, dochter o King John o Inglan an Isabel o Angouleme. Born in Dezember 1213, Jean wis 15 year younger nor Alisaunder, an the mairrage wis meant tae keep the peace, but it seems Jean wis never ower fond o Scotland. The peace made wis a fykie ane acause the king o Inglan, Jean's brither Hendrie, wis aye on nettles ower Scotland's links wi Fraunce. Deed, he wis feart o Scotland's freestaunin maucht. In 1232 the twa sides fell oot ower land claims, but gree'd bi the Treaty o York, in September 1237, that Alisaunder wad gie up his auld claims tae the norlan shires o Inglan for estates in the north warth £200 a year. The border atween Inglan an Scotland, as we ken it nooadays, wis maistly sattled as an affcome o this treaty. Queen Jean dee'd bairnless on 4 Mairch 1238 while on a veesit tae Lunnon an Alisaunder lookit noo tae Fraunce for a new wife. At Roxbra on 14 Mey 1239 the king wis mairried on Mary o Coucy dochter o Ingeram 3rd baron o Coucy, an Mary o Montmirail. Aince mair the king o Inglan took a fleg, jalousin that Fraunce an Scotland wis awa tae mak alliance agin him. In 1242 the Bisset an Cummin faimlies fell oot ower a murder an whan a curn Bissets fled til Inglan, Hendrie used this tae pit his neb in. But Alisaunder wadna thole this an bi 1242 the twa kings haed drawn up airmies by the border. Neither side wis wantin a weir an peace wis allowed tae brek oot. For the lave o his ring, Alisaunder wis at peace wi the Soothron, tho he wis nae sapsie.

That the king cuid be a fell cheil wis weel seen in his dealings wi the Caitnes men in 1222. Aidom bishop o Caitnes haed angert the fowk bi heizin up the

teinds thay'd tae pey an he didna get along wi Erle John either. While the bishop wis at Hackrig a hantle Caitnes fowk fund him, lockit him in his hoose, an brunt it doun aboot him. The news haed the king beelin an he led an army north. Aince he won at Caitnes, it is said Alisaunder haed the hauns an feet haggit aff echty men that haed been at the murder, libbit thair sons, an flung thair wifes aff thair lands. His ain man, Gilbert o Moray, wis noo made bishop o Caitnes an the paip wrate tae the king giein his blissing tae the treatment o sic gallus men.

The king wis for lang fasht, tho, wi the lords an sma kings that bordert his kinrik an whiles fankit him wi the kings o Ingland an Norrowa. In Alisaunder's een thir cheils wis owe him thair allegiance an richtly belanged the kinrik o Scotland. In parteclar, the lords o Gallowa, an the kings o Man an the Waster Isles left him thochtit. Atween 1200 an 1234 Aulan Rolandson rang as lord o Gallowa an his kizzen, Duncan Gilbertson, wis lord o Carrick. Baith lords dealt wi Ingland, an the lords o Ulster an Man, an baith haed muckle fleets o galleys that King Alisaunder thocht shuid be unner his say. In the years 1221-1222 Alisaunder gart Lord Aulan gie ships, takkin men fae Lothian an Gallowa tae serr in his army. The



king wis fellin twa duggs wi ae bane in makkin the lord o Gallowa serr him in a jaunt roon Kintyre an ither pairts o Argyll whaur he dauntont the men o the airt an took aiths o lealty. Here, in Argyll, the affspring o King Sumerleid held the croun o the causay an peyed homage tae the faur-awa king o Norrowa, whan it suitit them. The three heidmaist kinreds wis the MacDougals, the MacRorys an the MacDonells that rang in thair ain airts as *righan* or kings. The cultural springheid o thir fowk wis pairt Gaelic an pairt Norse, an for this cause they war kent in Gaelic as *Gall-ghaidhil* or, in Scots, 'the fremmit Gaels'. Deed, it wis the Norse kings o Man that ruled ower the islands o Lewis an Skye. The Norse leid, cryed Norn in Scots, wis as weel kent in the islands as Gaelic in thae days. It wis aboot noo that King Alisaunder stertit grantin oot Norman-style chairters tae fowk in Argyll, tae draw them intil his ain girth an bigg up a follaein for makkin his claims on the wast.

In 1226 Randal king o Man haed a cast oot wi his brither Aulay the Black o Skye. Aulay claucht Man for hisel, but he wis an ill-naturt an daeless ticket, sae King Acho o Norrowa appyntit Gillespie tae be king instead, in 1230, an Gillespie lichtit on Kintyre an Bute. His men siegit the castle o Rossay, held bi the faimly o the heich stewart, but Gillespie wis hurtit tae the deith. Whan Aulay the Black, haudin the kingship o Man, dee'd in 1237 his son Harald follaed him as king. Harald swithert atween Norrowa an Scotland. Earlier, in 1234, Aulan o Gallowa haed dee'd an-aw, leain three dochters. The Gallowa men didna want the lordship pairtit an broken up atween the dochters, but whan King Alisaunder judged the lands tae Aulan's three guid-sons, the

Gallowa cheils rose up agin the king's men. The erle o Ross wis sent in tae brek the rising an peacify the land. Wi the lordship unner the king's ain men, an its fleet o galleys at his command, the king set about his ploys for the Waster Isles an Man. At first he sent offers tae Norrowa for tae buy the Norse king oot. King Acho wis haein nane o it. Seekin tae uphaud his maucht thareawa, King Acho noo backit Gillespie's nevey Ewen MacDougal an Ewen's kizzen Dougal MacRory as kings in the wast. Syne Alisaunder biggit up his fleet an made tae daunt on Argyll an the isles in the simmers o 1248 an 1249. In the second o thae years Alisaunder sailt up the Firth o Lorn, at the heid o his army, in his potestater, whan aw a sudden he took a smit an dee'd wi a fever on the island o Kerrera forenent Oban, on 8 July. He wis 50 year auld an wis burried at Melrose abbey. The king's weeda, queen dowriar Mary, seen him oot bi a nummer o years, an wad mairry in 1257 on John Brienn king o Acre an constable o Fraunce.

**Alisaunder III 1249-1286** Born 4 September 1241 at Roxbra, Alisaunder wis the ae bairn o Alisaunder II an Mary o Coucy. Alisaunder wis made king at Scoun on 13 July 1249, aged echt. Acause the war noo a bairn on the throne, the nobles o Scotland warsled wi ane anither. Ane pairty wis for alliance wi Ingland, an wis heidit bi Aulan the Durward, while anither wis agin Ingland an mair for Fraunce, an wis heidit bi Walter Cummin erle o Menteith. Tae keep the peace thir twa held pouer thegither wi a jynt-cooncil, an tae keep the peace wi Ingland, thay gree'd tae mairry thair king on Magret Plantagenet. Born 29 September 1240, at Windsor, she wis the dochter o Hendrie III o Ingland an Eleanor o Province. The waddin wis held at York on 26 Dezember 1251, an the Inglis king, jalousin he cuid tak a lend o the laddie king, brocht up the idea that Alisaunder shuid pey homage for Scotland. The ten year auld king tellt his new guid-faither that he haed come intil Ingland an cuidna speak anent sic hard questions athoot his richt cooncillors. Hendrie lat the maiter drap, but the first inlat he got, he pit his neb in. In 1252 the Cummins turnt Durward oot fae the cooncil. This wis follaed in 1255 wi anither chenge whan Durward cam back an wheeched the bairn king an queen awa. A cooncil o 15 lords, waled bi the king o Ingland, on the grounds o protectin his dochter an guid-son, brak the Cummin's grup. The rule o curns ding dang made for shouglic government an drumlie politics, jist as the king o Ingland wantit, for he dreidit a strang Scotland makkin common cause wi Fraunce. In 1257 the Cummins took the croun o the causay aince mair. Walter erle o Menteith dee'd in 1258 but wis follaed as heid o the kinred bi Alisaunder Cummin erle o Buchan. The Cummins held pouer - an contert the maucht o Hendrie o Ingland - til Alisaunder wis auld eneuch in 1259, an even made alliance wi Lewellen prince o Wales.

No lang efter, whan King Alisaunder cam o age, he took in hauns the darg his faither haed stertit: the conquest o the Waster Heilans an Isles. Ewen MacDougal, the *rí* o Argyll, haed a cast oot wi King Acho o Norrowa, an in 1255 cam ower tae King Alisaunder. But his kizzen Dougal MacRory wis agin the Scots king. Trouble wis steert up atween the islanders an Alisaunder's subjects, an in 1262 he turnt a blin ee whan Walter Stewart erle o Menteith lichtit on Arran an Weelum erle o Ross invadit Skye. Thir ondings o weir brocht a fleet heidit bi King Acho o Norrowa in the simmer o 1263. Erle Manus

o Orkney wis sweirt tae jyne, an mony lords wis feart tae lowp ane wey or anither. Acho sailt doun the wast, wis jyned bi Dougal MacRory, but haed tae kidnap Ewen MacDougal. Alisaunder cawed cannie, sent oot ambassadors, an gaithert his airmy thegither. The Norse king brocht his fleet taeward the coast o Ayrshire but the affa blowster that wrackit his ships, gart Acho land at Lairgs on 2 October. As the Norse cam ashore the Scots airmy unner Alisaunder the Stewart bickert them eneuch that Acho took the scunner an turnt back. The Norse haedna been bate, but no lang efter King Acho took no weel on the wey north, an dee'd in Orkney. King Alisaunder haed the smeddum noo tae set his een on the Isle o Man. But Manus Aulayson, its king, noo randert tae the Scots athoot a fecht an gied his allegiance tae the Scots king insteid. In 1264 the Scots airmy, unner the erles o Buchan an Mar, an Aulan the Durward, gaed tae the islands tae daunton its switherers. It wis noo that the new king o Norrowa, Manus, socht peace.

In July 1266 the Norse gree'd til a treaty at Perth. The hail o the Waster Isles wad noo belang Scotland for a peyment o 4,000 merks, an a yearly peyment o 100 merks. Aw thaim that didna want tae bide cuid lea the isles, wi thair guid an geir, but awbody that steyed ahin haed tae become leal tae the king o Scots. Fae noo on the wad be nae mair kings o the isles, or sae Alisaunder jaloused. Insteid the heids o the kinreds wad be cryed lords bi the Scots croun. Bi the time that Alisaunder dee'd aw his subjects wis clesst as Scots - regairdless o whit leids thay spak, or whit backgrund thay haed sprung fae – acause thay aw belanged the *regnum Scotiae* or kinrik o Scotland.

Alisaunder haed gotten alang weel eneuch wi Ingland, but Queen Magret, his Soothron wife, dee'd 26 Februar 1275 at Cupar castle in Fife, an wis burried in Dumfaurlin abbey. Her brither Edwart Langshanks wis noo king o Ingland an in 1278, whan Alisaunder peyed a veesit, the gallus Edwart made it clear he thocht o hisel as owerlord o Scotland. But Alisaunder wis cute eneuch for ony Soothron claims.

The 1280's brocht a nummer o dowie deiths that threw the kingship intae question. Alisaunder's younger son Dauvit dee'd in 1281. His dochter Queen Magret, the wife o King Eric o Norrowa, dee'd in 1283, but waur, his son an appearant heir, Prince Alisaunder, tho mairried in 1282 on Magret o Flaunders, dee'd athoot heirs in 1284. This wis follaed wi the deith o the king's mither, Mary o Coucy, either the same year or in 1285, an she wis burried in Newbattle abbey. The cooncil o the nobles wis that the king shuid tak anither wife. At Jethart in the Borders, on 14 October 1285, he wis mairried on Yolande o Dreux, dochter o Robert IV coont o Dreux an Beatrich coontess o Montfort l'Amaury. On the nicht o 19 Mairch 1286, agin the advice o a wheen fowk, King Alisaunder left Embra an rade ower tae Fife, heidin for Kinghorn whaur Queen Yolande wis for the time. The weather wis gowsty an snaw-smooored an the king tint his wey. In the mirk his stotterin horse threw him ower the sea braes an he wis fund the neist morning, no faur fae Kinghorn, wi his neck broken. Syne he wis taen an burried doun at Dumfaurlin. It micht be that wi hinsicht fowk regairds Alisaunder's kingship as a gowden time – lookin tae whit cam efter him – but he did gie Scotland peace an 'ale an breid' in his day.