



Scotland's Ain Kingly Hooses: Pairt 11

Walcome tae pairt eleeven o Scotland's Ain Kingly Hooses. In this pairt we learn about the first twa Stewart kings, baith cryed Robert, an thair fykie faimly an kin.

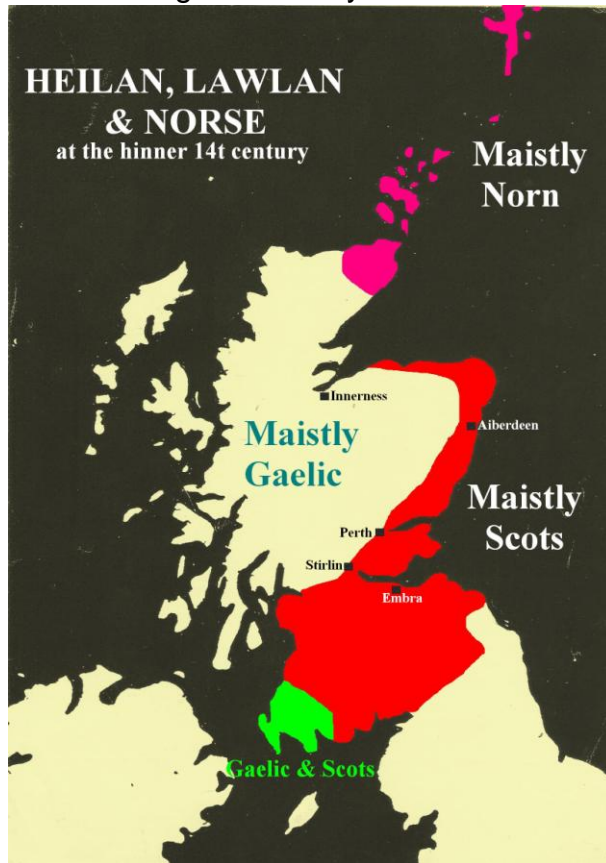
HOOSE O THE STEWART

Robert II King Bleirie 1371-1390 Robert's faither, Sir Walter the Heich Stewart, haed mairried on Robert's mither, Princess Merjory, in 1315. Merjory wis the dochter o King Robert I the Bruce an Isabel o Mar. Robert the Stewart wis born at Paisley on 3 Mairch 1316, but the follaein year Merjory took a faw fae her horse an dee'd, while her man Sir Walter dee'd in 1327 whan Robert wis eleeven. The stoushie ower the croun gart the Scots grue, sae in 1315 Robert I passt a tailzie, an act makkin his brither Edwart Bruce his heir. Whan Edwart wis killt in 1318 a new tailzie made Robert the Stewart the heir, but efter Prince Dauvit Bruce wis born, Robert wis shiftit doun the line. Whan he wis aboot twinty, Robert met Leezabeth Muir an the twasome noo steyed up thegither as bidie-ins. Leezabeth wis ages wi Robert an wis the dochter o Sir Aidom Muir o Rowallan an Jenet Dennistoun o that ilk. Whither thay haed haunfastit isna clear but in 1347 thay speirt at the paip aboot a dispensation o mairrage. This wis grantit on 22 November. Robert an Leezabeth haed haen a screed o bairns but the paipal dispensation made thir bairns lawfae. Leezabeth dee'd at the fore-end o 1355 an Robert mairried on his second wife, Euphemie Ross, aboot 2 Mey the same year. She haed been born *ab.*1322 an wis the dochter o Hugh 4t erle o Ross an Magret Graham.

The Lord Robert wis appearant heir tae the croun for maist o his days an the nobles haed lookit til him as a leader in the daurk an drublie days o the 1330s, an aince again while King Dauvit wis a presonar, but it wisna until his bairnless uncle dee'd that Robert won at the throne aged 55. He wis crount at Scoun on 26 Mairch 1371. Robert II wis blisst – or aiblins cursed – wi mony bairns. He faithert 21 bairns awthegither, an it wisna lang afore the heidmaist faimlies wis sib tae the Stewarts throu sindry mairrages.

It is weel seen that Robert's coort wis a Scots-speakin ane. He an his kinred noo heized up the staunin o the leid. The king wis a patron o John Barbour, airschdean o Aiberdeen, that wrate *The Brus* in the Scots leid *ab.*1375. Anither kenspeckle cheil, langage-wise, wis the king's second son, Robert erle o Fife, an his guid-fowk in the Lennox, that gied oot charters an ither bit screivings in Scots an-aw. Even intil Gaelic-speakin airts the Scots leid wis kent an whiles used for spellin oot wrutten Gaelic. In the faur north, in Orkney an Shetland, an aiblins Caitnes, Norn wis spoken yet, but Scots, a leid sib tae Norn, wis awready

kent the length o Orkney whaur the Sinclair fairmy, sprung fae Lothian, held the croun o the causay.



Acause o the Balliol weirs pairts o the mairches o Scotland, along wi a curn castles, wis yet in the hauns o Inglis sodgers, an Robert wis wantin thae pairts o his kinrik back. The king played a cannie gemm, haudin tae the offeecial truce, but turnin a blin ee tae the daeings o the erles o Dooglas an Mairch whan thay lichtit on the mairches in 1377, an whan a Perth merchant, Andra Mercer, led a Frainch an Scots fleet tae herry the coast o easter Inland. Robert wis for alliance wi Fraunce, follaein her heidship in ootland maiters. For instance, in 1378 the cardinals at Rome fell oot an electit twa paips contrair. Ane o the twa, Clement VII, flittit til Avignon in Fraunce an wis awned as the true paip bi Aragoun, Castile, Fraunce an Naples, an sae Scotland jyned Fraunce. Inland, as

the unfreen o Fraunce an Scotland, awned the Roman Paip Urban VI, along wi pairts o Germany an Italy. This paipal schism, as it wis kent, wad teir Europe in twa for the neist forty year.

Whan caws for weir cam oot o Inland, in 1383, Robert renewed the alliance wi Chairles VI o Fraunce. Robert gree'd that he wadna renew the Inglis truce but wad insteid mak weir on Inland. Chairles, for his pairt, hechtit new airmor an gowd for the Scots nobles an said he wad send 1,000 sodgers. Bi the dowp-end o 1384 the king's eldest son, John erle o Carrick, along wi Jeems erle o Dooglas, haed owerpane the coort wi thair weirlike crack. It wis weel seen King Robert wis donnert gettin an cuidna cairry oot his duties, sae a cooncil wis held that made the king gie maist o his ordnar pouers tae John o Carrick as lutenant o the kinrik. It wis, in actual fact, a palace cowp. The follaein year the ammeral o Fraunce, John Vien, brocht an airmy tae Scotland, along wi the airmor an gowd hechtit bi King Chairles. The Frainch an Scots strak at Inland first an whan the Inglis invadit the Scots drave aw thair beasts oot the gait o them. The Frainch cuidna unnerstaun the Scots staunin back while the Inglis brunt thair hames, makkin a rare greeshoch o Embra, Dundee and Perth. But the Scots lauched this aff an tellt thair Frainch guests it wis nae bother tae fling thegither new hooses o heather an dub. It wis aince the stervin Inglis turnt hame, humphin baggage an spyles, that the Scots an Frainch bickert them the length o Penrith. An as tae the Scots fermers, the pridefae Frainch, used tae takkin whit thay

wantit fae the landward, fund them ower gallus. The Frainch endit up peyin for their meat efter a hunner o thair fowk wis murdert bi Scots peasants, an at the hinnerend, took the scunner an made their wa-gauin o Scotland.

At the ootpassin o anither truce in 1388, Jeems erle o Dooglas, an Robert erle o Fife, led a twa-pranged invasion o Ingland. On the nicht o 5 August Dooglas waured the Inglis in a kenspeckle fecht at the Otter Burn but wis hisel hurtit tae the deith. The same year John o Carrick wis sair hurtit wi a horse kick an a general cooncil, cawed in the Dezember, made his brither Robert o Fife lutenant instead. King Robert took nae pairt in this or ither weirlike maiters but did gie a hearin til ambassadors fae Fraunce an Ingland in the simmer o 1389, while he wis at Dumfaurlin, an gree'd that Scotland shuid be comprehendit in a general truce. The king dee'd 19 Aprile 1390 at Dundonal castle, Ayrshire, an wis burried at Scoun abbey. He wis 74 year auld. Queen Euphemie haed dee'd afore him in 1387. It is said that Robert earnt the by-name 'bleirie' on accoont o his aye bleirie-lookin een.

Robert III The Cruikit 1390-1406 Born *ab.*1337, an bapteesed John, he wis the son o Robert II an Leezabeth Muir. In 1367 John mairried on Annabel Drummond. She wis born *ab.*1350 tae Sir John Drummond an Mary Montifex the heiress o Stobhaw, in Perthshire. At the age o about 34, in 1371, John becam the appearant heir o Scotland but bi 1384 he wis fasht at his auld faither an made alliance wi the Dooglas faimly. A commandin kick fae a horse pit the haims on his ambeetion in 1388 an syne he wis kent as the Cruikit. Twa year efter, in 1390, John hirpled tae the kingship, an wis crount 14 August 1390 at Scoun. Acause the Stewarts cuidna awn that John Balliol haed been king, John took the throne name o Robert III tae evite the style o John II.

Hooanever, it wis Cruikit Robert's kinred haed owerance o the kinrik, makkin or brekin peace as thay thocht guid. Ane brither, Alisaunder erle o Buchan, led a promisky life an brunt doun Elgin heich kirk efter the nebbby bishop o Moray haed taen the pairt o the erle's wife. Buchan's uiss o caterans, or Heilan men o weir, as a strang airm, set the heather ableeze. An this brither wis justiciar o the north meant tae be. Anither brither, the cannie, politically gleg Robert erle o Fife, held-gauin as lutenant o the kinrik, gaitherin mony fowk in his aucht. It wis he, raither nor the king, that airtit policy in thae days. The brithers hung tae the alliance wi Fraunce sae lang as Ingland claimed owerlordship. In the wast Donal lord o the Isles haed become a maisterfae cheil but wis soukit in the troubles o the king's brither, the erle o Buchan, in Moray. Donal's kinsmen wis the leaders-aff o the ridshanks, hired men o weir, baith at hame an in Irland, an the king o Ingland noo treatit wi Donal as a ruler in his ain richt. King Robert an his brithers cuidna thole thir ploys an haed the Lord Donal cawed afore pairlament in 1398, an again the follaein year, whaur it seems he wis peacified. It wis in 1398 that the king inbrocht the style o duik tae Scotland, makkin his son Prince Dauvit duik o Rossay, while Robert o Fife wis made duik o Albany.

Bi noo a cheil cryed Hendrie o Lancaster haed claucht the croun o Ingland but King Robert clesst him as a usurper. In 1399 Dauvit duik o Rossay haed been

appyntit lutenant o the kinrik, instead o his uncle Albany, but he wis nae politeecian. Dauvit wis trystit tae the dochter o the erle o Mairch, but syne cawed-aff, gied her the dunt an wadna pey back her tocher. The erle o Mairch, ane o Scotland's bonniest fechtters, gaed radge an offert his allegiance til Hendrie o Ingland. In 1400, whan the Inglis invadit the length o Embra, Rossay steekit hisel ahin the yetts o Embra castle while his mither, Queen Annabel, heidit the crack wi the invaders. Albany brocht up an airmy but instead o settin about the Inglis sut an waitit until thay turnt hame again. Queen Annabel dee'd in the hairst o 1401 while at Scoun an wis burried in Dumfaurlin. It wis noo that Albany made moves tae cowp his nevey fae pouer. Rossay haed proven hisel a pettit prince, daeless in govrenment or weir, sae in Januar 1402 Albany got Rossay's demission throu the cooncil an haed hisel appynit lutenant aince mair. As lutenant Albany gied his nevey the jyle in his ain castle o Fauklan, an it wis thare, unner Albany's tentie ee that Rossay dee'd no lang efter. The cooncil laid nae chairges but it is like Dauvit wis left tae sterve.

The coort wis shed in twa pairties wi the king an Albany for peace wi Ingland but Airchibald erle o Dooglas heidit a weirlike pairty o nobles that didna want peace gettin in the wey o takkin back mairch lands or spyles. The weir wi Ingland cam til a heid in 1402 whan the ammeral o Scotland got tore intil Inglis shipping, but a muckle Scots airmy, heidit bi the erle o Dooglas, laidit doun wi spyles an ky wis bate sair-like at Homildon Hill on 14 September whan the deidly langbow caused a stramash amang the Scots, an thay brak an gied backs. Dooglas tint an ee an wis taen presonar alang wi Albany's son Murdoch. Tho the weir didna end, Albany's policy o peace noo cam tae the fore an the war nae mair campaigns unner King Robert.

But Albany didna hae the hail coort in his aucht acause Hendrie Sinclair erle o Orkney an Sir Dauvit Fleeming becam the king's heidmaist cooncillors in his hinmaist years. Thir twa lords noo warsled wi the pairty o Albany an the Dooglases. King Robert's heir, his twal year auld son Prince Jeems, wis in the keeping o Fleeming an Sinclair. In Februar 1406 Fleeming wis killt bi Sir Jeems Dooglas. Appairinly the king wis feart for his son, an the ettles o Albany, an decidit tae send Jeems wi Sinclair tae Fraunce whaur Jeems cuid forder his education. A Danskin ship oot o Eastland wis chairtert but on 22 Mairch Inglis pirates claucht them aff Flambra Heid an sent Jeems tae the coort o Ingland. The news wis brocht tae King Robert an he dee'd no lang efter on 4 Aprile 1406 at Rossay castle, Isle o Buit, an wis burried at Paisley abbey. Screivars haes affen quotit a line that King Robert appairinly said aboot hisel, that he wis 'the warst o kings an maist ill-aff o men'. For a king that cuidna yoke his nobles, an that's brithers held his croun in contempt, it wis a fair but murnfae observe.