



Scotland's Ain Kingly Hooses Pairt 12

Walcome tae pairt twal o Scotland's Ain Kingly Hooses. In this pairt we learn about Scotland unner the Albany faimly an King Jeems I.

HOOSE O THE STEWART (haudin-gauin)

The Kinrik Unner The Albanies 1406-1424

Wi the deith o jaskit King Robert, in Aprile 1406, Scotland haed a laddie king that wisna jist oot the kintra, but wis keepit as a 'guest' at the coort o Ingland. A general cooncil o the kinrik, cawed at Perth in the Juin, declared that twal year auld Jeems wis king bi richt, but his uncle, Robert duik o Albany, wis appyntit govrenor o the kinrik atween hauns. Albany, aged about 66, wis a pawkie cheil, an didna gae oot his gait tae fesh back his nevey. Or lang he haed his ain seal strak, an rang like a king. Tae stert wi, Albany made a deal wi the erle o Dooglas an atween them thay haed the owerance o Scotland, but for the faur wast whaur Donal MacDonell wis maister. Albany haed the ongauin weir wi Ingland. The Inglis yet held the Scots strengths o Berrick, Fast, Jethart an Roxbra, an Albany's ain son, Murdoch (1367-1425), haed been taen bi the Inglis at Homildon in 1402. The Dooglases wantit weir but Albany cryed birlie until 1409. In a cannie act, Albany gied the erle o Mairch a pardon an brocht him hame. The same year hame-about fowk claucht Jethart castle fae the Inglis an Albany sent a sqad o men tae caw it doun. The year efter, in 1410, ane o the erle o Mairch's sons claucht Fast castle forby. Noo that Albany haed stealt a dint on the Inglis he made anither truce in 1411.

In auld fernyears Albany is descrived as faur ben the Catholic kirk, aiblins no whit we nicht jalouse fae sic a pawkie man. He haed Scotland's first kent heretic brunt in 1407 an socht tae ding doun onything apley in the kirk. His intress in lare an releegion is patent eneuch fae the haun he haed in foondin Scotland's first versity, at Saunt Aundraes. The weirs wi Ingland affen meant that the sates o lare thareawa wis shut aff tae Scots, while traivel tae the continent cuid be mischancy. A hantle professors at Saunt Aundraes haed stertit takkin on students in 1412 an Albany gied his uphaud til an ambassadry that brocht back a paipal bull makkin Saunt Aundraes a versity in 1413. Dootless the paipal schism left him thocht an he took opeenions fae amang the heid kirkmen. Scotland haed follaed the paipacy heidit bi Paip Benedict at Avignon, while ithers follaed Rome. Hooanever, in 1414, the twa sides cam thegither an electit ae new paip cryed Mertin V, steidit in Rome, an Albany brocht Scotland ower til him in 1418.

At hame a muckle stoushie wis steert up ower the heid o claims on the erledom o Ross, makkin for Albany's ae warst crisis. Whan Euphemie o Ross becam a nun, her auntie, Magret Lesslie, wife o Donal lord o the Isles, wis the neist heir. But Albany noo gart Euphemie name his ain son, John Stewart erle o Buchan, as her heir instead. Donal cuidna get justice for the Albanies, sae the maiter cam tae straiks. Gauin ben Rosshire, Moray, an intil Aiberdeenshire, Donal herried thae lands wi an airmy drawn fae the Isles, Heilans an pairts o the North East, giein the Stewart kinred a rare fleg. Neist he lichtit on the lands o Alisaunder erle o Mar an threitent the toun o Aiberdeen. Mar noo gaihert men fae Angus an the Mearns, wi the burgesses o Aiberdeen heidit bi Provost Robert Dauvitson. The twa sides met in weir on 24 July 1411 at the Reid Harlaw, by Innerurie in the Garioch. The stramash gaed on until efter sundoun, an syne thay pairtit, leain Provost Dauvitson, an the heids o the MacLeans an Mackintoshes, amang the deid. But in drawin awa, Donal gied up his gains. Whiles presentit as a fecht atween Gael an Lawlander this wis naething but a stoushie atween menseless nobles, loused o kingly pouer.

Albany wis noo threitent bi the auld inemy whan, in the hairst o 1416, the king o Ingland claimed owerlordship ower Scotland aince mair. The follaein year Albany an the erle o Dooglas siegit Berrick an Roxbra, the twa hinmaist strengths yet in the hauns o the Soothrons, but whan an Soothron airmy cam north thay gied backs. Weir wi Ingland noo gaed ootland. At the end o 1418 the Frainch wis in an affa wey acause the Inglis haed conquest the north o the kinrik an noo ettled at the Frainch croun itsel. The Frainch heir appearant, Chairles, sent an ambassadry tae the Scots coort an speirt for help. Albany cawed the cooncil an

they gree'd that 6,000 men – maistly lairds an younger sons - cuid list unner the erles o Buchan an Wigtoun, an fecht for Chairles. First landin in 1419, the Scots maistly siegit an took castles an ither strengths, an syne defait the Inglis at the Brig o Bauge on 22 Mairch 1421, whaur thay killt the brither o the Inglis king. At



the fore-end o 1424 Buchan brocht anither 6,500 men ower fae Scotland, tho whiles the Scots wis ower gallus in takkin whit thay wantit fae the peasants. The same year a Scots airmy took Vernoll in Normandy but wis thairsels brocht doun in bluidy defeat at the same place on 17 August 1424. About 4,000 Scots wis killt, amang them Buchan an Dooglas. Efter this, John Stewart o Dernley led the Scots in Fraunce, but thay haedna the maucht. Still an on, in brekin the Inglis mairch sooth, the Scots haed saved midland Fraunce fae conquest.

In September 1420, aged about echty, appearinly at the hecht o his can, Robert duik o Albany dee'd. His eldest son, Murdoch, that haed been lowsed fae Ingland in 1416, an haed jyned his faither in the cooncil, wis noo appyntit the neist govrenor o the kinrik in name o King Jeems. Tradeetion threaps that Duik Murdoch wis a thowless ruler that cuidna yoke his ain sons, lat alane the ither nobles. But the Scots haed sairly fasht the Inglis in Fraunce, an Ingland noo crackit about King Jeems comin hame for the price o the Scots bidin awa fae Fraunce. In August 1423 the Scots pairlament forgaitert at Innerkeithin an gree'd tae send an ambassdry til Ingland.

Jeems I The Lawgiewar 1406-1437 Born 30 Dezember 1394 at Dumfaurlin, Fife, Jeems wis the younger son o Robert III an Annabel Drummond. In Mairch 1406 Jeems haed been capturt at sea bi the Inglis an wis held for the neist 18 year. He wis shiftit fae ane hoose til anither, wi a sma nummer o Scots gauin back an forrit wi haunling an news fae hame, but aye unner the tentie ee o the Inglis king as a uissfae hostage. In Januar 1412 Jeems wrate hame, tae the nobles, wi a plea that his uncle Albany haedna done eneuch tae lowse him, an aince again, in the simmer o 1417, addressin hisel tae the cooncil. In 1420 an 1421 Jeems wis taen ower tae Fraunce bi the king o Ingland as a wappon agin the Scots. Jeems wis askit tae caw on Scots haudin Frainch castles tae rander them up, an whan thay gied a deif lug, the Inglis hung capturt Scots as traitors tae their ain king. It wis a gleg ploy, but ane that didna wirk. Bi 1423, wi the Inglis king deid an a bairn on the throne, Scots ambassadors heidit sooth. It wis gree'd that Jeems wad be ransomed for 50,000 merks, or, as the Inglis cawed it, the price o his meat an chaumer, alang wi a truce atween the kinriks, 27 hostages for the ransom, an the mairrage o Jeems tae Jean o Somerside. Jean wis born *ab.*1408 an wis the dochter o John markiss o Somerside an his wife Magret Holland, makkin her sib tae the king o Ingland. It is said that Jeems haed fawen in love wi her, a seetiation that weel suitit the coort o Ingland. The twasome wis mairried oot the kirk o Southwark, in Lunnon, on 2 Februar 1424 an King Jeems, at lang last, haed his hamebringing in the Mairch. He wis crount at Scoun on 21 Mey 1424.

Echteen year in Ingland haed got him on nettles an it wisna lang afore he set about his kinrik tae red oot whit he thocht wis wrang. In Mairch 1425 he haed Duik Murdoch an his faimly liftit, jyled, tried an heidit ding dang at Stirlin. The lands declared forfeit throu this bluidy act wis a walcome eik tae the king's tuim chakkar. Deed, Jeems wis a grippy cheil bi nature, dootless the affcome o no haein muckle o his ain siller for mony a year. Fae 1429 he wadna pey ony mair

ransom an left the noble hostages in Ingland tae fend for thairsels. He stentit £26,000 - meant for the ransom - an endit up spennin hauf o the siller on his hisel an his projects. Wi mair croun lands in his hauns, an mair customs revenues an-aw, the king spent thoosands on biggin wark at Embra an, in parteclar, his new castle an hoose at Lithgae. The war ithir expenses sic as the new guns inbrocht fae Flaunders, an dear bocht ferlies for the king's coort an fairly. This wis ane reason for the king tae haud mony pairlaments, sae the burgesses an lords cuid gree tae new stents. Jeems held ten pairlaments an three general cooncils awthegither, haed the auld laws set furth aince mair, an in 1426 enactit that the lairds shuid attend pairlaments. It wis for thir reasons that the screivar Bower gied Jeems the by-name o 'the lawgear'.

The Easter Seas, Flaunders an Scandinavie wis gey important tae Jeems for tred. The Scots haed foondit a staple port for Scots guids on the continent as faur back as 1347. At first this wis steidit in Birges in Flaunders, but flittit tae Middlebroch whan the poseetion o the Scots becam less siccar in the 1410s. Ower the neist fifty year the staple wad flit atween the twa touns. In 1423 Duik Murdoch haed brocht til an end a weir ower tred wi the coonty o Holland, while Jeems wantit tae evite weir in the 1420's. The ruler o Flaunders, that Scotland lippent on for muckle tred, wis the duik o Burgundy, an he wis allied wi Ingland until 1435. This pit King Jeems in a swither whan the Frainch speirt at him aboot makkin a new alliance an sennin ower sodgers tae fecht Ingland. Jeems gree'd a treaty, an hechtit his dochter Magret in mairrage tae the Frainch king's son in 1428, but he hummed an hawed for the comin years. The Scots haed stertit sattlin alang the Easter Seas fae *ab.*1380, sennin guids back an forrit, sae it wis important that Jeems wis on guid terms wi Denmark an Norrowa, kinriks the Scots haed tae gae ben. The king made a new treaty wi Denmark-Norrowa in 1426, makkin uiss in the comin years o Bishop Tulloch an Weelum erle o Orkney as fowk kent at the coort o King Eric o Denmark-Norrowa.

Back hame Jeems ill-haunted the lord o the Isles. In 1428 he cawed Lord Alisaunder til a gaithering at Innerness an haed him liftit, pittin a wheen o his follaeers tae deith. Aince Alisaunder haed been lowsed, in 1429, it wis nae ferlie whan he heidit a rising agin the king, but wis defait in Lochaber an taen a presonar again. The king sent the erle o Mar tae peacify the Heilans in 1431 but whan Mar wis hisel defait, at Innerlochy, pairlament fleicht the king for peace. It wis weel seen that naebody but the region's ain lord cuid command fowk richtly, an that King Jeems's policy left the Heilans in a pauchle. He took the rue an noo set Alisaunder free.

Jeems left hisel lookin menseless efter the Burgunds gied up the alliance wi Ingland in 1435. A lang switherer, Jeems noo chenged policy an made guid the treaty wi Fraunce. Thon year the Scots dung back an Inglis airmy at Piperden, in Berrickshire, a win that kittled the king. In 1436 he mairried his dochter Magret on the heir appearant o Fraunce, an siegit Berrick, a Scots castle in Soothron hauns. But he soon gied backs tae the Inglis airmy o relief. In weir the king haed tint face but, tae mak maiters waur, he an his cooncillors fasht ane word wi anither ower the heid o his taxes. A sma pucklie lords thocht guid tae rid

Scotland o a king that wis suspecious o his nobles an greedy for lands an siller. The king haed in his aucht a hail screed o erledoms an wisna lairge wi patronage at the coort. On 21 Februar 1437 Graham o Kinpult an Robert Stewart o Atholl, alang wi thair men bodin in fear o weir, got ingait tae the king at the Chairterhouse o Perth. Jeems took a fleg an ettled at makkin his escape throu a cundie, but the murderers got a grup, harled him back, an stickit the king tae deith. Jeems wis burried at the Chairterhouse kirk. Said tae be a brosey, cutty man, gien tae guid leevin, Jeems wis nanetheless a man o culture, skeely as a makar, an a hairpist forby. It is like he wis the first Scots king that haed his eemage pentit, tho the oreeginal wis tint langsyne. His weeda, Queen Jean, wad mairry her second man, Sir Jeems the Black Knicht o Lorn, in Juin 1439, an she dee'd on 15 July 1445 at Dunbar castle. She wis burried alang wi King Jeems in the Chairterhouse o Perth.

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