



Scotland's Ain Kingly Hooses: Pairt 13

Walcome tae pairt thirteen o Scotland's Ain Kingly Hooses. In this pairt we hear about King Jeems II, a young weirlike king, best kent for settin about the mighty Dooglas faimly.

HOOSE O THE STEWART (haudin-gauin)

Jeems II o the Fiery Face 1437-1460 Jeems an his twin, Alisaunder, wis born 16 October 1430 at Halyrood, Embra, an wis the sons o Jeems I an Jean o Somerside. Alisaunder dee'd no lang efter, leain Jeems the ae son an heir. Throu the murder o his faither, in Februar 1437, sax year auld Jeems becam king. The war noo a sprauchle for pouer atween Queen Jean an Walter erle o Atholl, the cheil that haed steert for the king's deith, but Jean haed uphaud fae Airchibald erle o Dooglas. The killers o her man wis huntit doun, an auld fernyears threaps that Atholl, the man that jaloused he cuid weir the croun, dee'd wi a rid hot croun o iron on his heid. Queen Jean thocht Scoun wis ower chancy, steidit as it wis by Perth, the place o the king's slauchter, sae she brak wi lang tradeetion an brocht her son til Halyrood, an haed him crount 25 Mairch 1437. Acause the king wis a bairn the noble cooncil gaihert in Mey an appyntit Airchibald erle o Dooglas as lutenant o the kinrik. The queen, an ootlin, noo tint ony pouer, but wis gien a pension an the keeping o the king's person. Dooglas ruled until he dee'd wi a fever in Juin 1439, but his deith led til a time o drumlie politics. The same month Queen Jean wis mairried on her second man, Jeems Stewart the Black Knicht o Lorn, an stertit biggin up her ain pouer aince mair. But in the August the keeper o Stirlin castle, Sir Alisaunder Levingstoun o Callandar, that haed the keeping o the laddie king, aw a sudden liftit Queen Jean an her man. The chauncellor, Sir Weelum Crichton, yokit the mauchless cooncil an oxtert alang wi the cannie Levingstoun, an his freen Muckle Jeems Dooglas erle o Avondale, tae hae the owerance o Scotland. In September 1439, at a general cooncil in Stirlin, thir lords made the queen gie the king ower tae thaim.

Muckle Jeems's grand nevey wis Weelum erle o Dooglas, son o the deid lutenant. Bi 1440 the young Dooglas wis stertin tae tak a haun in politics an wad'a been heidmaist cooncillor tae the king, grundit on his poseetion, but Muckle Jeems cuidna thole this. In November 1440, Erle Weelum, an his brither Dauvit, wis inveetit til a feast at Embra, alang wi King Jeems, aged ten, whan aw a sudden the brithers wis liftit for treason, harled fae the begrutten king, an baith heidit. Weelum wis about 17 an Dauvit 15. Even in thae days the killin o bits o

boys wis thocht ugsome an for this reason the feast haes been kent sensyne as 'the Black Denner'. Muckle Jeems noo claimed the erledom an lands o his murdert nevey. Crichton, Dooglas, an Levingstoun, held the croun o the causay atween them, until, in the simmer o 1442, Dooglas an Levingstoun fell oot wi Crichton. On his pairt, Crichton socht freenship wi Jeems Kinnedy bishop o Saunt Aundraes, an throu him, wi Queen Jean. Whan Muckle Jeems dee'd, in Mairch 1443, his son Weelum becam erle o Dooglas an ettled at the dounfaw o the Crichton faimly, settin the heather ableeze the follaein year.

In the hairst o 1444 the pawkie Dooglas an Levingstoun used the cooncil and king tae daunton ony unfreens throu declarin that King Jeems, noo aged 14, wis auld eneuch tae rule, jalousin thay wad hae the airtin o politics thair lane. The Crichton faimly wis miscawed traitors an the laddie king wis brocht tae the siege an faw o Meffen castle. Amang the pairt-takars o the Crichtons wis Bishop Kinnedy o Saunt Aundraes, a cheil that's lands in Fife wis noo brunt an spylt, an the king's mither, Queen Jean, siegit noo in her castle o Dunbar. Chauncellor Crichton held oot, siegit in Embra castle, but Queen Jean dee'd on 15 July 1445 an her castle randert. Her man, Sir Jeems Stewart, wis sent oot the kintra, but Chauncellor Crichton made a deal tae gie up Embra. Bi July 1445 the ceevil weir wis ower.

The Levingstoun kinred fund its wey intil a puckle offices an poseetions. Sir Alisaunder wis justiciar, Jeems wis chaumerlain, while Robert wis comptroller haein the say ower the king's siller. In 1449 thay an Dooglas made a treaty wi the duik o Burgundy that brocht tred richts tae the Scots in Flaunders, an a mairrage for King Jeems tae the duik's grand niece, Mary o Gilder. Aged aboot 16 she wis the dochter o Arnold duik o Gilder an Katren o Cleave. The tocher o 60,000 crouns wis a walcome handsel. Jeems wis mairried on Mary at Halyrood on 3 July 1449. The 18 year auld king wis kent as 'fiery face' an wad'a made a kenspeckle feegur on accoont o the rid birth mark that covert the caur-side o his face. This is appearant in a penting o Jeems made bi a German knicht that met the king in Scotland the follaein year. It wis noo that the kingly callant, reared amang gallus, affen veecious lords, socht tae shaw his maucht an staun his lane. In September 1449 he haed the Levingstouns liftit an syne declared forfeit. He wisna efter bluid sae muckle as the siller for his queen's income gree'd unner the treaty wi Burgundy. But the affcome wis the dounfaw o the Levingstouns.

The policy o Dooglas an Levingstoun haed been tae bigg up Scotland's alliances wi fremmit kintras, pairtly wi an ee on tred, an pairtly agin the ongauin threit fae Ingland, an King Jeems held-gauin this gait. As a wey o makkin the alliances the king's sisters wis mairried aff. The auldest, Magret, haed awready been mairried on Lewis o Fraunce, but dee'd ill-used in 1445. Isabella haed been mairried on Frauncis duik o Bertany in October 1442 but whan he dee'd in 1450 Jeems wantit her tae come hame sae he cuid mak a new mairrage, an siller for hisel. He haed never peyed Isabella's tocher, sae fasht at her brither, she refused tae lea Bertany. Twa ither sisters, Eleanor an Jean, wis inveetit in 1445 tae the Frainch coort whaur thay bade the neist twa-three year. The

Frainch king, Chairles VII, noo haed a direct haun in trokin the mairrage o Eleanor wi his ally, Seegsmund airchduik o Austrich, in September 1448. It seems unsonsie Jean cuidna get a man, sae wis brocht hame. Years efter, in 1459, her brither mairried her on the erle o Morton. Sister Mary wis mairried in 1444 on Wolfart coont o Grandpre and lord o Vere in Zealand. Zealand wis gey important as the province that muckle Scots tred gaed ben. The youngest sister, Annabella, wis mairried on Lewis duik o Savoy in 1447 but syne wis brocht hame agin her will an her mairrage declared unlawfae, her brither King Jeems gettin 25,000 crouns rue-bargain in 1456. He wad use her again, in 1459, whan he mairried her aff til anither ally George Gordon maister o Huntly.



At hame the mighty Dooglas kinred, wi sae mony lands, offices an alliances in thair aucht, haed King Jeems thochtie. Erle Weelum's auld inemy Chauncellor Crichton, an Bishop Trumell, stertit cheepin at the king's lug. Baith Jeems an Dooglas haed claims on the erledom o Wigtoun, while Dooglas haed appearinly made a baund o alliance wi the erle o Crawford an John lord o the Isles. In Februar 1452 the erle attendit a denner wi the king at Stirlin castle whaur the king askit him tae gie up the baund. Whan the erle wadna, Jeems gaed gyte, pullt a knife, an stickit him. Sir Paitrik Gray noo took a pole aix an dung oot the erle's harns while the lave o the king's men jyned in the stickin, leain the deid erle wi 26 stangs. Syne the bluidy bouk wis cast oot a

windae. It wis a scunnersome act but pairlament exonert the king, an noo he gaed tae weir wi the murdert erle's hail faimly, the sae-cryed Black Dooglases. At first the twa sides banged awa brawly, in the simmer o 1452, but the king haedna maucht eneuch an cryed birlie. He an the new erle, Jeems, made a peace, but neither side wis aefauld. Dooglas's ally, Crawford, haed awready been defait at Breichin in Mey 1452, an in Mairch 1455 the king, wi his new Frainch guns, strak agin, siegin an cawin doun castles an ither hooses o strength. But it wis a puckle Border lairds, Johnston, Maxwell an Scott, that met in wi the erle o Dooglas's brithers at Arkinholme by Langholm, on 1 Mey, that blootert the Dooglases as thay war humphin spyles. The king brocht siege guns doun tae the hinmaist Dooglas strength, Trief in Kirkoubrie, in the July, but it wis soon randert.

Tae the north Jeems haed maiters ootstaunin wi King Christiern I o Denmark-Norrowa. The Scots haed defaultit on peyments tae Norrowa for the Waster Isles, owe unner the Treaty o Perth o 1266. But a stoushie wis steert up in the hairst o 1456 whan Bjorn Thorleifsson, govrenor o Iceland, wis blew intil Orkney on his wey tae Denmark wi his king's rents. His ship wis claucht, the rents taen, an Thorleifsson jyled, at the fleitchin o the Scots. Ony ettles at talks wis pit-aff until 1459 whan the twa sides forgaitert in Fraunce wi King Chairles as owersman. King Jeems wantit a mairrage wi Denmark, the end tae claims for the peyment, an Shetland for a tocher. Christiern cuidna dae muckle about the peyments owe him. On the ither haun, a mairrage treaty wad'a been a face-saving wey oot. Sae things stood at the deith o Jeems, but the policy o the Scots taewards the Norlan Isles wis weel seen.

Noo that Jeems haed murdert, an blootert, the Black Dooglasses, the weirlike king turnt on the hinmaist lands usurpit bi Inglan: Berrick an Roxbra. The Inglis haed lichtit on Scotland back in October 1448 but haed been defait at the Sark in Annandale. In the simmer o 1455, an again in Februar 1457, Jeems siegit Berrick, but wi nae gain. In the second year he led a muckle raid throu norlan Inglan, spylin an cawin doun touers, while anither body o sodgers raidit the Isle o Man. In the simmer o 1460 Jeems led anither army agin Roxbra an seigit hit. The king haed a liking for the new bombard, or guns. Pairt o Mary o Gilder's tocher haed been peyed in airms an wappons. Deed, Jeems haed brocht the muckle bombard Mons Meg ower fae Flaunders in 1457. At Roxbra on 3 August 1460, while the king wis staunin by ane o his canons, the wappon misgaed wi a flist that killt him. Jeems o the fiery face, an fiery nature, dee'd as he haed rung. He wis 29 year auld. The Scots held forrit, took the castle, an haed it cawed doun aince an for aw, while the deid king wis taen an burried at his caufgrund o Halyrood.