



## Scotland's Ain Kingly Hooses: Pairt 15

Walcome tae pairt fifteen o Scotland's Ain Kingly Hooses. In this pairt we hear about Jeems IV, a king that wis faurben the nation, but ower ready tae fecht.

### **HOOSE O THE STEWART** (haudin-gauin)

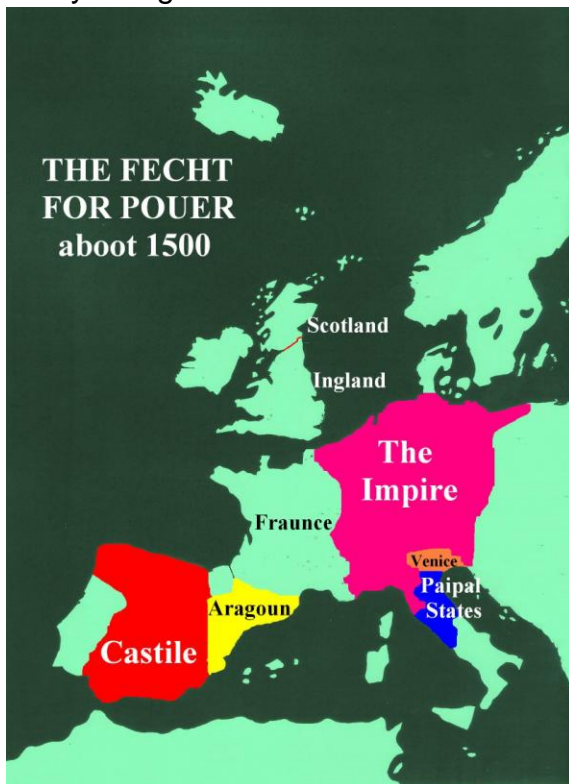
**Jeems IV o the iron belt 1488-1513** Born on 17 Mairch 1473, he wis the elder o twa sons cryed Jeems, born tae Jeems III an Magret Audenburg. In thae days it wis a common eneuch custom for a faither tae hae twa or mair sons wi the same first name. For a lang time Jeems's caufgrun wis unkent, but it is noo thocht tae'a been Halyrood. His brither, Jeems the younger, wis duik o Ross but in 1497 becam airchbishop o Saunt Aundraes an chauncellor o Scotland syne. The war a third brither, John, that becam erle o Mar. In the simmer o 1488, 15 year auld Jeems becam king efter his faither wis killt in the stramash at the Bannock Burn mill. Jist twa weeks efter the fecht Jeems wis crount at Scoun on 26 Juin 1488. Wis Jeems murnfae aboot his pairt in his faither's deith? No lang efter takkin the throne the kingly callant peyed for masses for the sowel o his mither Magret, but it wisna til 1497 that he haed ony said for his faither. On the ither haun, auld fernyears tells us that Jeems took tae weirin an iron belt agin his skin tae chastify hisel, eikin new links whiles. Deed, the'r ae mention o the king's iron belt in the lord thesaurar's accoonts, in 1507, whaur it is appearant the belt wis happit in worset sae it wadna chaff his skin.

As Jeems wis a haufling yet, the haed tae be nobles appyntit tae airt his policies. For a whilie the Heburn faimly, along wi Airchibald erle o Angus, held the croun o the causay. In the pairlament held in October 1488 the Heburns an ithers dung doun the auld king's freens an pairt-takars, sae that mony mislippent ane anither. It wisna muckle wunner that anither rising wis steert up in the simmer an hairst o 1489. Ae day Lord Forbes gaed ben Aiberdeen wi the deid king's bluidy sark hingin fae his spear, an cawin for the murderers tae be fund. He wis jyned bi Alisaunder maister o Huntly an thay made thair wey sooth at the heid o an army. In the wast o Scotland Robert lord Lyle an John Stewart erle o the Lennox held Dumbertan castle agin the Heburn faction. It took twa shairp fechts in the October, ane at the Moss o Touch, an anither at Gartloaning by Aiberfyle, wi 16 year auld Jeems at the heid o the army, tae peacify fowk. It wis patent til awbody that the cuid be nae siccar government, but wi fowk belangin the auld king's pairty, sae the king's cooncil wis, bi 1490, waled fae amang aw pairties.

For the neist five year the king lippent on a wheen nobles. Airchibald erle o Angus, an Weelum Elphinstoun bishop o Aiberdeen, wis kenspeckle. Angus, tho, cuid be a sleekit cheil an in 1491 the king learnt Angus haed been dealin wi Ingland ahin his back. But in 1493 the king made him chauncellor. Weelum

Elphinstoun wis made keeper o the privy seal an wad prove important in the admeenistration o the kinrik. His ettle wis for a versity tae be foondit at Aiberdeen tae bring lare tae the ignorant an barbarous fowk o the north, as he pit it tae the paip, an in 1495 got the paipal bull he wis efter. Scotland noo haed the three versities, at St Aundraes, Glesca, an Aiberdeen. Angus an Elphinstoun baith haed something in common. Baith thocht that treaties wi Fraunce wisna muckle uiss tae Scotland an wad raither the king made alliance wi Ingland.

Hooanever, at the fore-end o the 1490's Jeems haed tae tak tent tae mair domestic maiters, but here he fasht as muckle as he socht tae peacify. The real tickler for Jeems wis auld, mauchless John o the Isles that cuidna haunle his contermacious kinred ony mair. In 1476 John haed tint the erledom o Ross an syne the heidship o the faimly. John's natural son, Angus, haed weired agin the king, but wis killt in the 1480's. Efter his deith twa ither memmers o the kinred, Donal Gorme, an Alisaunder o Lochalsh, lowsed thairsels on the unfreens o the MacDonells, the king's factors comprehendit. Bi 1493 Alisaunder o Lochalsh haed been acceptit as heid o the kinred bi the cooncil o the isles an haed lichtit on Innerness an Ross. King Jeems cuidna thole this an haed pairlament forfeit the lordship o the isles tae the croun in 1493, giein auld, mauchless John a pension. Thon simmer Jeems led a fleet intil Argyll whaur he soon fund a cheil ready tae gie him the hauder he wis seekin – John Maclan o Ardnamurchan.



The year efter, Maclan killt Alisaunder o Lochalsh. Whan Sir John MacLean o Isla wis steert tae rise up, throu Maclan takkin pairt o Isla, it wis Maclan that huntit him doun wi Jethart justice. In the simmer o 1494, an again in the ware o 1495, King Jeems sailt intil Argyll tae dauntin the heids o kin, makkin guid uiss o his leal Maclan. But whaur the war ae heidship in the Heilans an Isles afore 1493, noo the war mony, an affen the king wad use lutenants that haed thair ain ploys or feuds tae forder. The war that mony fechts an raids that the Gaels wad cry the neist 150 year 'the time o spylage'. Bi 1495 Scotland wis aince mair important gettin, in the hing o pouer atween Fraunce an the Impire. The king's cooncillors wantit a braw mairrage alliance for Jeems. The

imperor-elect, Maximillian, wis giein uphaud til a pretender tae the throne o Ingland cryed Perkin Warbeck, an King Jeems took Warbeck on for his ain ends. Jeems sent an ambassadry tae Ferdinand an Isabella o Castile an Aragon speirin efter ane o thair dochters. Ferdinand an Isabella wis a cute twasome, in

the middle o trokin wi Ingland for a mairrage wi King Hendrie an alliance agin the Frainch. Ferdinand an Isabella didna want Scotland makkin weir on Ingland for Fraunce, but haed nae dochter tae offer the Scots. Thay threapit on freenship, but jaloused thay cuid tak a lend o Jeems throu haudin his ambassadors back, playin for time til Ingland wis strange eneuch. But Jeems kent fine weel an in 1496 brocht the pretender Warbeck on a raid intil Ingland. In 1497 he led twa-three mair raids an siegit Norham castle wi his muckle cannon Mons Meg that wis brocht doun fae Embra wi 100 warkmen tae redd the wey. The king o Ingland, wi risings at hame, cuid dae naething an in September 1497 gree'd a seeven year truce wi Scotland.

Bi noo the king wis faurben his fowk. He haed an intress in mony airts an letters, like nae king afore, or at least mair records haes won ower tae tell us aboot him. For instance, he wis skeely in leids. His mither tongue wis Scots, but Jeems spak Frainch, Italiens an Spenish, Dutch, German an Latin forby. He is the hinmaist king we ken spak Gaelic, tho hoo versant he wis is anither maiter. The young king keepit a screed o fancy wives – drawn fae amang the noble hooses – that gied him mony bairns. His first fancy wis Marion Boyd, neice o Airchibald erle o Angus, an mither o Jeems's son Alisaunder, born in 1493. Jeems sent his son ootland for an education, the laddie haein Erasmus for a teacher. In 1504 the king haed Alisaunder made airchbishop o St Aundraes, aged 11, an chancellor in 1510, aged 17. While Alisaunder wis a laddie his faither got tae admeenister the income o the airchbishopy. In 1496 Lord Drummond's dochter Magret Drummond becam the king's new fancy wife, follaed in 1498 bi Jenet Kennedy. For the noble faimlies that hured thair dochters, the war offices an teetles tae be haed aff a king sae 'slockent'. The king thocht naething tae deval, midway throu a pilgrimage, tae veesit ane o thir weemen an see til hisel, as he did wi Jenet Kennedy at Darnawa on his wey tae the shrine o St Duthac at Tain. The king haedna a wife but at the hinnerend, efter tuim-haundit troke wi Casteil an Aragoun, Fraunce an ither kinriks, the policy wis for peace wi Ingland throu a mairrage. In 1502 the twa kings gree'd a treaty o peace that wis meant tae aye haud-gauin, an Jeems wis mairried on 8 August 1503, at Halyrood, on Magret Tudor. Magret haed been born at Westmaister on 29 November 1489 an wis the dochter o Hendrie VII o Ingland an Leezabeth o York. Jeems wis aged 30 an Magret wis jist 13.

Jeems's policies ootland comprehendit the weirs atween his uncle, King John o Denmark, an Swaiden wi the airmed merchants o the toun o Luipkie in Germany. The Scots sent twa-three ships tae the Easter Seas tae gie King John a haunder in 1502 an in 1505 King Jeems actit as owersman atween King John an Swaiden. In 1507 Jeems's ambassadry tae Luipkie brocht peace atween the toun an Denmark. In thae same years Jeems warsled wi the problems o his kizzen, Chairles duik o Gilder, that wis threitent wi Castile an the Impire, an pit Hendrie o Ingland aff jynin thir pouers agin Chairles. Bi 1507 the paip, Julius II, wis wantin Jeems on his side in his ploys agin Fraunce. He kent that Jeems wis allied wi the Frainch but wantit tae draw him awa sae that he cuid bigg up a league o states tae drive Fraunce oot o Italy. Thon year Julius sent ower Antonio

Inviziat wi a gift o a sword an hat he haed blisst. At a heich mass held in Halyrood kirk, in Aprile 1507, King Jeems wis gien the hat an sword afore a gaithering o the nobles an kirkmen. This sword becam pairt o the Honours o Scotland, the croun, sceptre an sword, an can be seen tae this day in Embra castle. King Jeems haed declared tae the paip his weesh tae heid a crusade tae the Haly Land an for aw the princes o Europe tae come thegither in peace, but thir princes wis a fashous thrang. Tho Jeems haed made peace wi Ingland in 1502 the twa sides cuidna keep the Borders fowk fae fechtin wi ane anither. Jeems threapit on Soothron pirates lichtin on, an spylin, Scots merchants at sea an-aw. But waur, his guid-faither, Hendrie VII, dee'd in 1509, an Ingland's new king, Jeems's guid-brither Hendrie VIII, wis an unco-guid 18 year auld that declared his ettle tae dauntin the Frainch. In 1510 Paip Julius an King Lewis XII o Fraunce lowsed thair sodgers tae blatter ane anither ding dang. King Jeems noo sent Bishop Andra Forman ower tae Fraunce an Rome tae bring about peace, but naebody wad lend a lug. The follaein year Julius made a baund o alliance wi Spainie an Venice that Hendrie o Ingland jyned, howpin that Spainie wad help him conquest pairt o Fraunce. Jeems swithert a guid while, but the Inglis king drave Scotland intae the airms o Fraunce an a new treaty wis made in 1512.

The weir cam in August 1513. Whan Ingland invadit Fraunce, Jeems wis askit tae mak a raid on Ingland, for tae draw her aff. Sae Jeems lichtit on the mairches o Ingland wi a thrang o an army. In fact, it is jaloused this wis the biggest Scots army that maircht on Soothron syle, haein intil't 12 erles an about 20 lords. Jeems took wi him 17 cannons that wantit 400 oxen tae pull them, an siegit Norham, Etal an Ford castles, takkin aw o them in days. Hooanever, Tamas erle o Surrey, commander o the Inglis army, maircht about Jeems an made tae tak up poseetion on the braes o Flodden in Northumberland. This wad'a pit the Inglis in the road o Jeems heidin hame. The king made a breenge on 9 September, sennin his ranks o spearmen dounhill, but it wis weet an gowsty weather, makkin the grund glabbert. The Scots brak ranks lattin the Inglis get in about, turnin a muckle fecht intil a muckle slauchter. Jeems, fechtin afore he gied his orders, an forleitin the guid grund, took an arra an sword strais an wis killt fechtin like an ordnar sodger. The king's son Alisaunder, a bishop, twa abbots, nine erles, 14 lords, an 10,000 lairds, burgesses an peasants wis slain alang wi thair king. The bluidy, jaggit, scuddy bouk o the king, that haed the claes an guid's riven fae it, wis taen intil Ingland whaur syne it wis burried at Richmond in Surrey. An sae the ring o King Jeems cam rattlin doun.