



## Scotland's Ain Kingly Hooses: Pairt 18

Walcome tae pairt echteen o Scotland's Ain Kingly Hooses. In this pairt we learn about the Scots king that becam the first ruler ower the hail Breetish Isles.

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

**Jemie VI 1567-1625** Born 19 Juin 1566 in Embra castle he wis the son o Queen Mary an Hendrie lord Dernley. Alane o the king Jeemes he haes aye been kent bi the couthy form o the name Jemie. Efter his mither haed demitit, Jemie wis crout on 29 July 1567 at the kirk o the Haly Rood in Stirlin. It wis a dreich ceremony whaur John Knox preacht an mony lords bade awa. Jemie's uncle, Jeems erle o Moray, ruled in the bairn's name as govrenor, but aince Queen Mary escapit in 1568 Scotland shed in twa pairties. The uphauders o the bairn king – cryed the King's Pairty – and thaim that wantit Mary back on the throne – the Queen's Pairty - noo set about ane anither. The Hamiltons, that heidit the Queen's Pairty, regairdit the rule o the kinrik as richtly belangin thaim. On 23 Januar 1570 while Moray wis gauin ben Lithgae ane o the Hamiltons kythed at a windae an shot him deid. Jeems Dooglas erle o Morton noo heidit the King's Pairty but haed tae seek help fae Inglan tae gie the Hamiltons an thair freens a paikin. Twa Soothron airmies, in Aprile an Mey 1570, brunt the Borders, brunt the toun o Hamilton, an syne helpit siege the castle o Dumbertan whaur Airchbishop John Hamilton wis. Mattha Stewart erle o the Lennox haed come north wi the Inglis an wis appyntit govrenor o the kinrik in the July. The twa sides cryed birlie for a while's time, but in Aprile 1571, whan Dumbertan castle wis taen, Airchbishop Hamilton wis hung. The King's Pairty cawed a pairlament in Embra in Mey 1571 but haed tae jouk for the guns lows in on them fae the castle o Embra held bi Sir Weelum Kirkcaudy o Grange on behauf o Queen Mary. A month efter, the Queen's Pairty held thair ain pairlament. In August whan the King's Pairty forgaithert for anither pairlament, this time in Stirlin, thay brocht along the five year auld king weirin a split-new croun, but on the nicht o 4 September Grange kythed wi sodgers an in the follaein stramash Lennox wis shot an killt. The day efter, John Erskine erle o Mar wis made govrenor but he lastit a year an dee'd on 28 October 1572. The King's Pairty noo electit the erle o Morton as govrenor on 24 November. A screed o govrenors haed rung ding-dang in a kintra shed agin itsel but Morton noo tried tae win ower a when lords. In Februar 1573 in a gaithering at Perth, kent as the Peacifying, the kin an freens o Hamilton an the erle o Huntly gree'd tae awn Morton an Jemie VI as lang as ony law plea agin them wis drappit an thair lands restored. But Embra castle held oot unner Grange. Morton brocht the Inglis in aince mair an siegit the castle in Mey 1573. For ten days the guns dung the waws til it randert an Grange wis taen, tried, an hung. Bi the simmer o 1573 the ceevil weir wis ower.

Morton kent his poseition wis a sliddery ane sae haed tae lippen on Leezabeth o Ingland. In 1574 the preacher Andra Melville (1545-1622) won hame. He threapit the kirk shuid hae a say on state maiters, but no the ither wey roond, that congregations alane shuid caw meenisters tae serr, an the shuid be nae bishops. In 1578 the general assembly o the kirk took-on this theology, cryed Presbyterianism, but Morton kent fine that the kirk an king cuidna *baith* hae the say ower ceevil maiters. Morton haed mair tae fash him tho, for the erles o Argyll an Atholl heidit a pairty agin him in 1578. Thir pawkie cheils wis ower cute for Morton. In Mairch thay cawed a convention o nobles tae Stirlin. The fairmy o the erle o Mar, that haed the keeping o the king, brocht the laddie along an he annooned that Morton cuidna keep the peace an shuid demit office. On 10 Mairch Morton's demission wis acceptit. Bi the simmer Morton haed jyned the king's cooncil again, but he haedna the maucht. The twal year auld king wis weel-lared an lang-heidit, reared at Stirlin unner the thrawn Latin scholar George Buchanan, that wisna sweirt tae chastify the boy. Jemmie aince murned that thay gart him write Latin afore he cuid speak Scots. His ither tutor, Paitrik Young, felt hert-sair for the wee sowel, but the king wis lanesome. It wisna muckle wunner that in September 1579, whan the king's kizzen Esmie Stewart won at the coort fae Fraunce, an shawed a freenly face, Jemmie ettled efter him. In 1580 Jemmie made him erle o Lennox, an duik in 1581. Lennox pit hisel at the heid o the lords agin Morton. In Dezember 1580 ane o Lennox's freens, Jeems Stewart, accused Morton o airt an pairt in the murder o the king's faither Dernley. Morton wis liftit, an in Juin 1581 wis heidit on The Maiden, a forerunner o the guillotine that drappit its blade on a body's craig aince the peg wis pullt awa. Jeems Stewart haed been made erle o Arran an he an Lennox noo airtit the king. Thay stood for a Frainch alliance an fairer dealings wi Catholics, but the erles o Gowrie, Angus an Glencairn, that heidit the Presbyterian pairty at coort, took a fleg. Whan the kirk tried tae abolish bishops, Lennox wadna gree til't, sae the meenisters preacht agin him. Feart for the ploys o Philip o Spainie, an hoo faur the king wis in the aucht o Lennox, Weelum Ruthven erle o Gowrie wheecht the king awa while he wis huntin by Perth, in August 1582, an brocht him tae the Hoose o Ruthven (noo kent as Huntingtouer), whaur the callant wis held for the neist ten month. Gowrie an the Presbyterians jaloused thay cuid rule Scotland throu the presonar king an gart Lennox flee at the back-end. But in Juin 1583, Jemmie, noo 17, escapit an reposed Jeems erle o Arran. In Aprile 1584 whan a when nobles ettled at the cowpin o Arran, the king gaihert an army an chased them. Gowrie wis pit tae deith. Arran held a pairlament that pit throu acts settin kingly authority ower the kirk. The kirkmen cryed thir statutes 'the Black Acts'.

At the hinnerend Arran wis cowpit in Dezember 1585 wi uphaud fae Leezabeth o Ingland. She haed affen pit her neb in Scotland's affairs but noo King Jemmie wad gar her pey for the richt. On 5 July 1586 he gree'd a league whaurby Leezabeth wad pey him £4,000 a year no tae mak alliances agin Ingland. Baith wad fend the ither agin ony invader, while Leezabeth wadna staun in the wey o ony richt Jemmie micht hae tae the croun o Ingland. In the years follaein, the maiter o Orkney an Shetland brocht mair trokin wi Denmark-Norrowa. In 1589 Jemmie gree'd a mairrage treaty an wis trystit on Ann the dochter o Freidrik II an

Sophie o Maitlanburg. Ann haed been born on 12 Dezember 1574 at Skandeborg castle in Jutland, but at her wa-gauin her ships wis driven bi storms intil Upslo in Norrowa. Jemmie hisel noo sailt ower tae Norrowa an the twasome wis mairried oot the Muckle Haw o the Auld Bishop's palace at Upslo, on 23 November 1589. Winnin hame in 1590 the war an affa steer aboot witches in North Berrick. The king wis tellt the witches haed gaihert wi the deil hisel, an unbeast wi burnin een, claws, an a rauch, howe voice, that tellt them tae cast cantrips for the deith o the king throu drounin him on his wey hame. Screeds o fowk wis taen an torturt, a puckle brunt or hung, but the maist byordnar wittins got oot the torture wis that the king's ain kizzen, Frauncis erle o Bothwell, oxtert wi the deil. This wis a gleg ploy o the king's. Bothwell wis a zealous Protestant, whiles used bi the kirkmen agin the king, but he wis clearly gyte. Bi pittin his name forrit as the deil's servitor, the king howpit fowk wad scunner at Bothwell. In fact the king played Calvinist an Catholic agin ane anither. The heid o the Catholic pairty wis George Gordon erle o Huntly. In 1589 King Jemmie haed maircht on Aiberdeen ower the heid o Huntly's dealings wi Spainie, but the twa haed lang been freens an the king wis saft on him. Whan Bothwell haed the rare cheek on him tae raid the king's hoose at Halyrood, in Dezember 1591, the king sent Huntly forrit wi commission tae hunt Bothwell an his pairt-takars. In Februar 1592 Huntly fund Bothwell's freen the erle o Moray at the hoose o Donibristle in Fife, set the hoose alowe, an whan Moray fled on the shore, Huntly's men claucht an haggit the erle tae deith. This steert up the kirk pairty ever mair an Bothwell daured tae mak twa mair raids on the king, in 1592 an 1594. In the hinner year Huntly, alang wi the erle o Erroll, haed mair dealings wi Spainie sae in the hairst King Jemmie led anither airmy north. Tho Huntly defait the erle o Argyll at Glenlivet, he wadna fecht the king, an fled. Bi 1596 the kirk haed gane ower faur whan meenisters preacht a Catholic plot an gart fowk riot in Embra. The king's cooncil made it unlawfae tae speak ill o the king or his men. Huntly an Erroll cam hame tae Scotland an convertit tae Calvinism, at least in name. As tae Bothwell, he wis banisht, an syne dee'd ootland.

Haein dealt wi the releegious zeelots for a wee, Jemmie socht tae peacify feuds atween the nobles an daunton the Borders an Heilans. He declared in 1597 that aw heritors in the Heilans an Isles shuid bring thair evidents tae the chakkar or loss thair lands. The king sent fleets tae the wast wi the heidmaist ettle o bringin in his rents, but in 1609 the heids o kin gree'd tae gie uphaud tae the kirk o Scotland an big new kirks. In 1616 the privy cooncil enactit that fae noo on heids o kin in the Heilans shuid learn the Scots leid, an leemit thair nummers o follaers. Atween 1599 an 1607 Jemmie alloued some Lawlan lords – the Fife Adventurers - tae 'plant' Lewis an turn oot the MacLeods, but at the hinnerend it wis anither Heilan cheil, MacKennie o Kintail, that bocht oot the disjaskit Lawlan company an plantit his ain fowk. The king haed a parteeclar hatrent for the MacGreigor clan, that he thocht held his authority in heich contempt, an in 1603, efter the clan haed blootert the Colquhouns at the fecht o Glenfruin, thair name wis banned an siller offert for MacGreigor heids. Jemmie took a parteeclar intress in the Borders whaur faimlies sic as the Airmstrangs, Kerrs an Scotts haed lang raidit ower the border, whiles brekin the truces made bi kings. Here, on the wast mairch, the

lang-staunin feud atween John lord Maxwell an Jeems Johnstoun o that ilk, brak intil open weir on 6 Dezember 1593 whan ane o the biggest fechts atween twa failmies wis focht at the Sauns o Dryfe, by Lockerbie. In fact, Maxwell's 2,000 follaers wis drawn ben the toun, skailt awgait, an 700 o them cut doun bi Johnstoun's 400 men. It wis thir lowse acts that King Jemmie cuidna thole.

Whan Leezabeth o Ingland dee'd in Mairch 1603, Jemmie becam king o Ingland, Irland an Wales forby. He wis the first body tae ring ower the hail Breetish Isles his lane, wi nae kings contrair. Bidin maistly in Lunnon noo, Jemmie thocht hisel imperial. In 1604 he chenged his kingly style tae king o Great Britain, meanin the hail island, threapit on the uiss o the term Breetish, an cawed for a new jynt flag. He even socht the yoking o Ingland an Scotland wi ae pairlament, laws an releegion, but the Inglis an Scots cuidna gree on terms. Thay wad share a king, ay, an whiles wirk wi ane anither, but ithergaits wad haud-gauin as twa freestaunin kinriks. Jemmie wad veesit his hameland jist aince mair, atween Mey an August 1617, but he left the privy cooncil, steidit in Embra, tae run the kinrik. Hit wis heidit bi Alisaunder Seton erle o Dumfaurlin, as chauncellor (1605-1620), an syne Sir Tamas Hamilton as secretar o state (1612-1626). Thay kent hoo tae deal wi the king's haunling, an whan tae tell the king he wis oot o touch gettin. The king haed, in 1606, brocht in bishops tae maister the kirk. He threapit that sindry auld rites sic as the celebration o parteeclear fests, sacraments, an kneelin at communion, shuid be taen-on bi the Presbyterians but thay war sair agin him. At the hinnerend mony fowk wadna conform tae the king's Five Airticles o 1617, as thay war kent, sae the king said he wad mak nae mair novations.

Noo that Jemmie's maucht striddled baith kinriks he cuid deal wi auld fashery fae baith sides o the border. On the mairches the king ettled tae pit doun reivers. A jynt commission o Inglis an Scots, wi its ain polis, wis tried oot in 1605 an sut again in 1618. In 1607 he declared some lords o Ulster forfeit an cam up wi a ploy tae saddle Inglis an Lawlan Scots in thair steids, thinkin this wad haut Gaelic lords lowpin the sheuch tae haunder ane anither. The MacDonell famly rose up throu 1614 an 1615, steert wi Campbell erle o Argyll that haed gotten chairters tae the king's lands in thon airt. Campbell pit the rising doun an maistert the Sooth Isles, plantin Lawlan fowk at Inverera, an Cammeltoun in Kintyre. Anither quirky airt wis Orkney an Shetland whaur Queen Mary's hauf-brither, Lord Robert Stewart, haed become erle an lord in 1581. His son Erle Paitrik – kent as Black Patie – ruled as a tirran ower his fowk. He took a lend o Norse an Scots law whaur it suitit him, an trokit wi the king o Denmark, but in 1608 the bishop o Orkney speirt for the king's help. Paitrik wis cawed til Embra in 1609 an gien the jyle. Norse law wis abolisht in 1611 an whan the erle's son stertit a rising, Paitrik wis pit tae deith in 1615.

Ootland King Jemmie wis soukit intae the Thirty Year Weir (1618-48). His dochter Leezabeth had mairried on Freidrik V o the Palatinate in 1613 but whan the Protestant nobles o Bohemey made him king in 1619, insteid o the Imperor Ferdinand II, the twa gaed tae weir. Colonel John Seton an Sir Andra Gray took gey near 3,000 Scots ower, an the baith o them fund thairsels siegit in touns in Bohemey. Aince Freidrik wis near vankisht an the weir skailt intae the Palatinate,

King Jemie cawed a pairlament in Embra in 1621 that votit siller for the weir an



for the uphaud o his dochter Leezabeth.

The king's wife, Queen Ann, haed whiles insnorled hersel in the politics o the Scots coort. In parteeclear she made herself a fae o Chauncellor Maitland that haed claimed lands stentit pairt o Ann's mairrage contract. In 1594 she took dowie efter the king gied Prince Hendrie tae be reared up wi the erle o Mar's faimly at Stirlin, sae she an the Mar kinred wis cauld rife. She fleggit the king in 1593 when she turnt a Catholic in hidlins, but Jemie fund this uissfae in his dealings with the paip an Catholic pouers. Ann's new releegion made her a freen o the erle o Huntly an whiles she pled his cause. But efter Ann gaed doun til

England she never played as muckle a pairt in coort politics as she haed done in Scotland. She dee'd on 4 Mairch 1619 at Hampton Coort in Lunnon.

King Jemie dee'd 27 Mairch 1625 at Tibbals Park Hoose, England, an wis burried in Westmaister Abbey, Lunnon. Bringin aboot the jynt-kingships alane made him kenspeckle, but he wis novative in mony ither weys. He wis a poyet an a screivar, an wrate political warks sic as the *Basilikon Doron* o 1599. He decreed that in 1600 the year wad stert on 1 Januar insteid o the auld calcul o 25 Mairch, conform tae chenges in the calendar braid Europe. This new calcul is whit fowk uses the day.

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