



Scotland's Ain Kingly Hooses: Pairt 9

Walcome tae pairt nine o Scotland's Ain Kingly Hooses. In this pairt we hear hoo Robert The Bruce haed hisel made king an set about his unfreens at hame an the Soothron invaders forby.

HOOSE O THE BRUCE

Robert I The Bruce 1306-1329 Born 11 July 1274 at Turnberry castle, Ayrshire, Robert wis the son o Robert Bruce o Annandale an erle o Carrick, an Magret coontess o Carrick. The Bruce faimly wis sprung fae the line o Erle Dauvit o Huntingdon an haed a guid claim on the croun o Scotland. His faither – an hisel – changed sides in the weirs, whiles fechtin for the guardians an whiles for Edwart Langshanks o Inland. Back an forrit the faimly gaed. It aw lippent on whither or no the guardians upheld Balliol or Bruce claims tae the croun an whither or no Langshanks micht 'gie' the croun tae the Bruces, pittin the faimly in an affa swither. The young Robert's mairrages is a clear sign o his ambeetion. About 1295 he wis mairried on Isabel o Mar, the dochter o Donal erle o Mar bi his wife Helen relict o the erle o Fife. It wis aince jaloused that Helen wis the dochter o Lewellen prince o Gwynedd but this is thocht gey dootsome noo. Isabel an Robert haed a dochter Merjory but Isabel dee'd in 1296. Sometime in 1302 Robert took a second wife, Leezabeth o Burgh. She wis the dochter o Richert o Burgh the Rid Erle o Ulster bi his kizzen Magret o Burgh. A rare choice for a guid-faither, the Rid Erle wis the maist pouerfae cheil in Irland that's maucht striddled the sheuch atween the twa kintras.

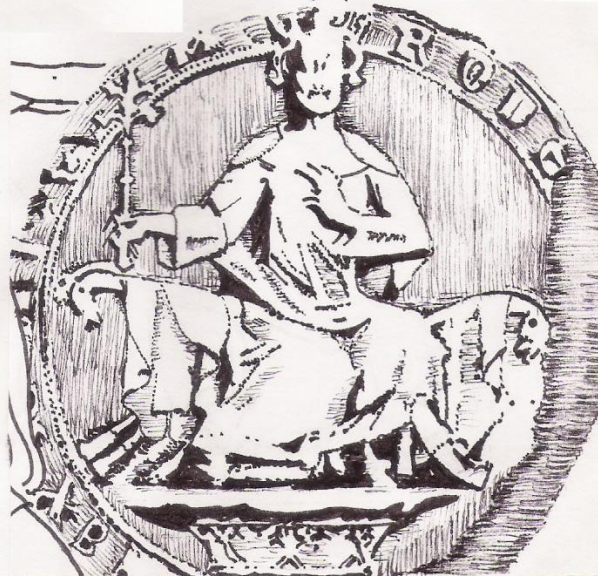
Robert's ain faither, the erle o Carrick, dee'd in Aprile 1304, makkin him heid o the faimly. He haed lands an richts in his aucht, baith in Inland and Scotland, an wis noo weel-quotit in Lunnon, but in 1305 it wis weel seen that Langshanks wantit Scotland as naething mair but a pendicle o Inland, a crounless, conquest land. Robert haed awready made a baund, or greement, in hidlins, wi Weelum Lamberton bishop o Saunt Aundraes. The twa gree'd tae gie the ither a hauder aince the time cam, an noo Robert gaed efter the croun. The ae-maist cheil that stood in his road wis John The Rid Cummin o Badenoch that haed aince serred as a guardian. In Februar 1306 the twa held a tryst at the Greyfreears kirk in Dumfries. Ane word soon fasht anither, an whither it wis his ettle or no, the Bruce pullt oot a dagger an stickit the man. Tradeetion threaps that Bruce said 'A think A'v killt the Cummin' an that ane o his follaers replied 'A'll mak siccar'. Whitever the truth, the Cummin wis hurtit tae the deith, an Robert haed committit murder on haly grund. The war nae wey back sae Robert gaihert a when follaers an haed hisel crount king o Scots at Scoun on 25 Mairch 1306. Robert Wishart, bishop o Glesca, noo fleicht fowk in King Robert's cause an syne the Guid Sir Jeems Dooglas cam forrit tae fecht for him. Aince Langshanks learnt that aw his weirs haed appearinly been for naething, it gart him beel. In the simmer a Soothron airmy

made its wey north plenishin itsel fae the castles an hooses o strength in Scotland that wis yet in the Edwart ane's aucht. An he cuid aye lippen on the kinsmen o the murdert Cummin. The Bruce gaihert a sma army, but he wis near defait - afore he got stertit - at Meffen in Perthshire, on 19 Juin, an haed tae flee intil Argyll whaur he wis blootert a second time at Dalry on 11 August bi Lord John MacDougal o Lorne. Bruce's army gaed aw tae staps an awbody haed tae shift for thairsels. Langshanks noo took bluidy vengeance on aw Bruce's freens an kinsfowk. Bishops Lamberton an Wishart wis taen presonar an sent in cheens tae jyles in Ingland. Sir Simon Fraser, claucht at Meffen, wis drawn an hung in Lunnon. Queen Leezabeth an Princess Merjory, sent north, wis capturt at Tain an sent til Ingland an-aw. Mary Bruce, King Robert's sister, an Isabel o Fife, that haed pit the croun on Robert's heid at Scoun, wis gien the jyle in cages at Roxbra an Berrick. An the king's brithers, Alisaunder, Neil an Tamas, wis drawn, heidit an quartert.

Aiblins fleein first til Irland, syne King Robert landit in Carrick an Gallowa aboot Februar or Mairch 1307. In the Aprile he defait an Inglis army at Glen Trool, an aince mair at Loudoun Hill on 10 Mey. Noo awthing chenged. The tirran Langshanks dee'd in July an the Bruce set aboot blooterin his unfreens. Buchan, the Cummin faimly hertland, wis spylt an brunt in 1308, an Weelum erle o Ross, aince an inemy, noo jyned King Robert. Scots that wadna come ower tae the Bruce wis hung as traitors. For twa-three year Scotland wis tore in twa. The hinmaist o the king's inemies in Scotland, John MacDougal o Lorne, haed been defait bi the stert o 1309, an the king cuid even haud his first pairlament, at Saunt Aundraes, in Mairch. At thon pairlament diplomatic dealings wi King Philip IV o Fraunce wis restored, an mony kirkmen an nobles declared that Robert wis the richtfae king o Scots. This wis folloed wi a treaty atween King Robert an King Acho V o Norrowa, sealt at Innerness in October 1312. Robert haed

awready turnt his een on the lands sooth o the Forth that haed been usurpit bi the Inglis. Ding dang the castles held bi the Inglis fell tae Bruce's men led bi his brither Edwart Bruce, the Guid Sir Jeems Dooglas, Jeems The Stewart, an Tamas Randal the king's nevey. Bruce haed mony castles cawed down sae that the inemy cuidna haud them for steidin airmies, while his policy wis tae bicker the Inglis oot the kinrik. In the simmer o 1313 the king's

The seal o Robert the Bruce



brither, Edwart Bruce, efter siegin the castle o Stirlin, gree'd wi its commander that unless an army fae Ingland relieved it bi midsimmer the year efter, it wad be randert tae the Scots. King Robert gied his brither an upreddin for committin them til a fecht in the open field ower the heid o ae castle. In Juin

1314 the Inglis king, Edwart II, brocht a muckle airmy intae Scotland for tae relieve Stirlin: Inglis, Frainch, Fleemings, Germans, Earse an Welsh sodgers made up an airmy nummerin mibby 20,000. It is jaloused that Bruce haed about 7,500 men. While the Scots focht for thair kintra, the Soothron airmy wis hauf-hertit. The twa met at the Bannock Burn on 23 an 24 Juin. On the first day, an Inglis knicht, cryed Bohun, sichtit King Robert an breenged at him. At the deith, King Robert joukit an brocht his aix doun throu Bohun's helmet, intil his harns, an cleaved his heid in twa. This sicht fair kittled the Scots airmy. On the second day the Scots schiltrons, or spearmen, folloed wi licht horse unner Sir Robert Keith, brak the Soothron airmy. It gied backs, an mony drount in the watters o the Forth. The Inglis king fled ower the border but wis that thrawart that he wadna allou that Scotland wisna his, an wadna awn Robert as king o Scots. The Scots haed taen mony presonars, an muckle gear, an noo Scots captives in Inland wis lowsed. Queen Leezabeth an Princess Merjory baith cam hame.

Fae 1311 the Scots haed been lichtin on the north o Inland, whiles burnin, whiles stentin touns. King Robert an his brither Edwart, an the Guid Sir Jeems Dooglas, noo lowsed deidly raids on Inland as ane wey tae scunner Edwart II intae makkin peace. The toun o Berrick, spyled an claucht bi Langshanks years afore, wi taen back bi Scotland in 1318. Scots airmies invadit the length o York, an took siller aff o touns as the price for no makkin a greeshoch oot them. A second front wis opent up in Irland atween 1314 an 1327. Edwart Bruce took an airmy ower an haed hisel made king o Irland, afore he wis killt in 1318, but the fechtin thareawa left a land aw tae sticks.

Robert noo tried diplomacy wi the paip tae get him tae awn his teetle an mak Inland dae likewise. In 1320 mony barons pit thair seals tae the Screive fae Arbroath, wrutten bi Bernart Linton, an sent it tae the Paip John in Rome. It wis a screive threapin on the lang, free history o the Scots kingship, the ettle o the Scots tae staun free, thair acceptance o Bruce as king, an settin oot the wrangs done tae them bi Inland. But the Scots gaed forder. Thay tellt the paip that shuid Robert no uphaud Scotland or its fowk as a freestaunin kinrik, or shuid he subject them tae the Inglis, thay wad turn him oot an mak anither king. Thay declared 'Sae lang as a hunner o us is in life, we winna thole the rule o the Inglis. We daena fecht for fame or riches, but for freedom alane, that nae guid man gies up but wi life itsel'. This Screive, an the political ettles ahin it, stauns its lane in Europe as a voice o national identity.

The paip an king o Fraunce threapit on peace tae the king o Inland, an Robert made a treaty o alliance wi Chairles IV o Fraunce in Aprile 1326 whaurby ilk ane gree'd tae help the ither agin ony invasion fae Inland. In 1327 Edwart wis made tae demit his croun til his son, Edwart III, a laddie o 14 year auld that wantit tae gie the Scots a paikin. King Robert haimmert the north o Inland thon year, his airmies hurlin back an forrit, devalin, the screivar John le Bel said, for tae mak an eat ait cakes, an syne awa again, leadin the stervin Soothrons a merry jig. Efter the Guid Sir Jeems haed nearly taen the young Inglis king a presonar, by Durham, the Soothrons speirt about peace. The affcome wis the Treaty o Embra, gree'd in Mairch 1328, whaurby the king o Inland gied up aw claims til owerlordship an awned that Robert wis the richtfae king o a freestaunin Scotland. Tae mak the peace mair shair Bruce's son Dauvit wis mairried on Jean the Inglis king's sister, at Berrick on 12 July 1328. Dauvit wis fower year auld an Jean wis seeven. The Scots

cryed their prince's new bride Jean Mak Peace. Afore this Queen Leezabeth haed dee'd 26 October 1327 at Cullen, Banff, an wis burried in Dumfaurlin abbey. Even while makkin the treaty o peace at Embra, King Robert haedna been weel, an wis in his bed at Halyrood whan the terms wis gree'd. It is thocht that he haed taen leprosy, an he dee'd 7 Juin 1329 at Cardross. He wis burried at Dumfaurlin Abbey alang wi his wife. Robert haed chenged sides as a young man, he haed murdert, an tae some wis a usurper, but he haed proven hisel an haed uphuden the freedom o the kinrik, an tae this day, Robert I richtly stauns his lane as the hero king o Scots.

© Dauvit Horsbroch