



Scotland's Ain Kingly Hooses: Pairt 3

Walcome tae pairt three o Scotland's Ain Kingly Hooses. In this pairt we hear about the kings o auld Alba atween AD 900 an 1005.

HOOSE O ALPIN (haudin-gauin)

Constantine II Heithson 900-942 Born afore 879, Constantine wis a son o Heith Lichfit. Until AD 900, the jynt kings ower Dalriada an Pechtland haed affen been kent as kings o the Pechts, but noo, a new name wis gien tae baith: - Alba. This is a Gaelic word that's oreiginal meaning wis the island o Britain as a hail, an, back in Irland at least, wis taen tae mean the norlan pairt o Britain ruled ower bi the Gaels. But, as time gaed by, an the maucht o thir Gaelic kings streicht sooth, takkin in ither ethnic curns, the meaning o Alba chenged an cam tae mean the Scotland we ken nooadays. The say that Scots kings noo haed in the adaes o Lothian wis confirmed unner Constantine an the heich reeve o Bambra – the cheil that ruled ower the Auld-Angles-speakin an Brettonic-speakin fowk o thon airt. In 910 the Vikings took ower York an bi 914 Elreid o Bambra haed fled tae Constantine; baith took a sair defeat at the hauns o the Vikings in 914 at Corbrig. In 918 the Vikings lowsed on an spylt Dunblane an the Scots follaed them tae Corbrig aince mair an, aince mair, took a defeat in a bluidy fecht. Efter 918 Constantine socht tae uphaud Viking York, for a girth atween Alba an the pouer o the king o the Inglis that wis takkin ower Northummerland. The affcome o this wis a treaty in 920 whaurby the king o Scots an his pairt takars – Dumbertan an Lothian – gree'd peace wi the king o the Inglis. Whan Sitric o York dee'd in 927, Constantine upheld Gothreid, but the king o the Inglis – Athelstane – wantit weir. Aw sides forgaithert at Eamont by Penrith an on 12 July 927 peacified ane anither. Gothreid bade wi the king o Dumbertan in the years 927-34 but aye ettled at the kingship o York. In 934 weir brak oot whan Aulay – son o Gothreid an guid-son o Constantine – took kingship in Irland an socht tae conquest York. Baith Constantine an Dumbertan gied Aulay help an sae Athelstane o Inland invadit Alba. An airmy o Soothrons maircht up the east coast the length o Dunnottar, sennin a fleet the length o Caitnes forby. But nae fecht took place, an the Soothron airmy haed tae gie backs. In 937 Constantine – alang wi Aulay, an Ewen o Dumbertan – focht Athelstane at Broningfield, in the north o Inland, an wis defeat in ane o the maist bluidy fechts in thae days. Twa year efter this, the Inglis king dee'd an Constantine's kin ruled ower York. The eildit king o Scots demittit his croun in 942 for tae become a monk at Saunt Aundraes, whaur he dee'd 22 Dezember 952. Mair nor ony king that haed gane afore, Constantine haed seen aff the faes o his kin, an upheld the idea o ae kingship ower the different fowk o whit is noo Scotland.

Maucom I 942-954 Maucom wis the son o Donal II, the Gallus. King Maucom confirmed the haud o his kinred ower the Brets o Dumbertan but haed tae warsle wi the growin maucht o the king o the Inglis. In 945 thon king vankisht the Vikings fae York an made a treaty wi Maucom. It wis weel seen that Maucom's kin wis noo maisters o the north an it wis gree'd that Maucom shuid hae Dumbertan (cryed Strathclyde bi the Gaels) an Lothian intil his girth, an that he, Maucom, wadna gie ony hauder tae the Norse, at least no agin the Inglis king. Sic a peace didna last ower lang. A cheil cryed Eric Bluidaix, that haed aince been king o Norrowa, noo landit an took ower Caitnes, Orkney, Shetland, an the kingship o York. This meant that King Maucom wis threitent baith fae the north an the sooth. In 948, or 949, Maucom raidit as faur sooth as the watters o the Tees, in Northummerland, maist likely on the side o his kinsman, Aulay o Dublin, agin King Eric. It is said bi auld chronicles that Maucom capturt an drave awa, mony presonars an ky. Aulay becam king o York for a time but Maucom wis soukit intae the weirs again, an his airmy o Gaels, Brets an Lothian men wis defait in 952. But still an aw, the kingship o Alba held. It wis noo weel seen that the war twa heidmaist kingships in the island o Britain – the kings o Alba an the kings o the Inglis – but the mairchlands atween them wad be the cause o mair fashery an weirs in time tae come. Maucom dee'd at Fetteresso, in the Mearns, in 954, an wis burried on Iona.

Edulf 954-962 Edulf wis the son o Constantine II an folloed his kizzen Maucom as king. The mair that the kings o Scots insnorled thairsels wi the daeings o ither fowk, an the mair frontiers that they took ower, the mair thay shiftit awa fae thair Gaelic oreeginal. King Edulf haed a Germanic name, as did ane o his sons, cryed Aulay. It seems that his faimly wisna jist sib tae the Norse, but maun'a been sprung pairtly fae an Auld-Angles backgrund. Edulf's ain intress in Fife an Lothian, wi the sooth an east, is appearant, an in the 950s he claucht the fort o Embra, tho maist likely he haed a claim throu kinship wi the hoose o Bambra. Edulf dee'd at Saunt Aundraes, in Fife, in 962, an wis burried on Iona.



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Duff son o Maucom 962-966 Duff wis the son o Maucom I. This king wisna lang in pouer afore his kizzen, Cullen king o Dumbertan, wantit the kingship ower Alba for hisel. The war a fecht in Perthshire that Duff won, but no lang efter he haed tae flee north intae Moray whaur he wis killt at the Brig o Kinloss by Forres, on 20 July 966, in a bluidy fecht. Appairinly, the men o Moray haed turnt agin Duff an noo slauchtert his follasers. It is thocht that the monument at Forres, kent as Sueno's Stane, an biggit in the 10t century, micht shaw the men killt thon day that wis heidit, an that's heidless bodies fillt up the watter. Ane heid, in a frame, is jaloused tae be Duff's ain heid. Syne he wis

Cullen 966-971 Cullen wis the son o Edulf, an wis kent as the 'whelp' meanin he wis likely nae mair nor a haufing whan he took the kingship. It haes been proponed that his feud wi King Duff wis doun tae Duff haudin the croun o Dumbertan fae him, an giein it til a kinsman Donal insteid. Hooanever, it wis Dumbertan's fashery that brocht aboot his ain dounfaw, whan in 971 Roderick son o Donal defeat an killt Cullen at Abington, in modren Lanrikshire.

Kennet II son o Maucom 971-995 Kennet II wis the son o Maucom I, an is ane o the mair kenspeckle o the aulder kings o Scots. The *Annals o Inisfallen*, fae Irland, descrived Kennet as *ardrí Alban* 'heich king o Alba' throu his owerance o the hail north o Britain. He stertit aff his rule wi a raid intae the wild mairchland o the north o England, but in 973 or 974 he met wi the Inglis King Edgar at Chester whaur the twa appearinly gree'd whit the mairches atween baith the kinriks shuid be. In 975 Kennet follaed up earlier treaties wi thir Soothron kings that confirmed his haud ower Lothian. The king o the Inglis even gied him hooses tae bide in whanever he cam tae veesit in England. It wis throu this greement that syne the kings o England, an in parteeclear the Norman kings in time tae come, wad claim that the king o Scots wis a vassal. At the dowp-end o Kennet's kingship the Dens invadit Lothian (reivin Bambra in 993), but it wis his faw oot wi the kings o Dumbertan that wis his undaein. His ploys tae chenge the rules o kingship, an hae his ain son follae him as king, brocht ill-will fae amang a when o the kin, an thay rose up agin him. It is thocht that the dochter o Cunthar, mormaer o Angus, brocht aboot the king's deith at Fettercairn, in the Mearns, in the year 995.

Constantine III The Baldie-Heidit 995-997 Constantine the Baldie-Heidit wis the son o Cullen. The historian Fordoun – lookin back tae the mirky 990s - said that Constantine haed been efter weys tae tak the croun aff Kennet II for a lang while, an made guid o the ill-will bi steerin ithers agin Kennet's ploys for the kingship. Hooanever, Constantine didna last lang hisel an dee'd at Rathinneramon in 997.

Kennet III son o Duff 997-1005 Kennet III wis the son o Duff. Kennet III an his son Greigor wis kenspeckle amang thae nobles that wis contrair Kennet II in 995. It isna jist clear, acause the chronicles an auld registers canna gree, whither it wis Kennet or Greigor that wis king, but it wadna be the first time that a faither an son haed been jynt-kings. Whitever wis the case, Kennet as king his lane, or jyntly wi Greigor, thay didna lang enjoy the spyles while Maucom, son o Kennet, wis lowse in the kinrik. Efter echt year, Maucom gaihert thegither an army tae forder his ain claim tae the kingship, an the twa sides met on 25 Mairch 1005 at the fecht o Monyievaird, by Crieff, whaur baith Kennet an Greigor wis killt.