

Domnhall Murchadh

Domnhall Murchadh was the 5th Earl of Uisdean, a leader of a seafaring folk notorious as “Sea Kings” and raiders. He was a pivotal figure in Dael Riatan politics, serving as a member of the Council of Regents after playing a primary role in the deposition of [Queen Caoimhe](#) in 754. He was known for his independent spirit and a long-standing struggle to maintain the power of the Murchadh clan against the central authority of the crown.

The ancestral home is [Caer Murchadh](#), situated on the island of [Uisdean Mor](#) in the Easter Isles

Family

The Earl was born in 705 to [Iain Murchadh](#) (the 4th Earl) and Senga Aonghus. He held a significant claim to the throne of Dael Riata through his mother, who was the younger sister of King [Alasdair IV](#).

He was 69 years old at the time of his death in 774. While the sources do not name a current wife, they confirm he fathered no children, leaving his younger brother, [Fearchar](#) (born 732), as his heir until both were killed in the same incident. Following their deaths, the Earldom passed to their cousin, [Diarmid Murchadh](#).

Domnhall was described as an imposing figure with strawberry blonde hair and a beard chased with white. He bore a distinctive star-shaped scar on his cheek and, at his final dinner, was lavishly dressed in a sea-green silk doublet embroidered with pearls and a gold chain set with emeralds.

Recent History

Early in the reign of Queen Caoimhe, Domnhall’s family was targeted by the crown to “clip their wings,” resulting in the Murchadhs being disestablished from Norpen in 749. This dispossession, and fears that the Queen intended to name a Skyssian merchant as Prince Consort, led Domnhall to lead the coalition that overthrew her in 754.

In 774, Domnhall and his brother Fearchar met [King Alasdair V](#) at [Caer Suibhne](#) to negotiate a reconciliation. During a private session, the King demanded amends for the deposition of his mother. The meeting ended in violence; Domnhall was beheaded by the King's Steward, [Iain Alpin](#), who claimed the Earl had attempted to assassinate the monarch. While the King labelled the act a response to treason, Murchadh bannermen maintain it was a premeditated murder and a grave breach of the rules of hospitality.

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