

THE JACOBITES NA SEUMASAICH

RESOURCE PACK FOR TEACHERS

Being fully persuaded of your Loyalty and zeal for the Kings Service I think fit to inform you that I am come into this country to offer his right, at the head of such of his faithful Subjects as will engage in his quarrel. I intend therfor to set up the Royale Standard at Glenfinne on monday the 19th instant. your appearance on that occasion would be very useful: but if not practicable, I expect you to joyn me as soon as possible: and you shall always find me ready to give you marks of my friendship

Charles P. R.

ARCHIVE SERVICE LEARNING AND OUTREACH

The Jacobites – Resource Pack

The selection of documents in this folder has been made from many relating to the Jacobites which are preserved in the safe keeping of the Highland Archive Service. These are copies of original documents which were written at the time. Documents from all of the Risings have been included in the pack. Some background information has been included about each Rising to enable the document to be studied in context. The final document, a Highland Dress Court Warrant, gives an insight into the aftermath of the final Rising in 1745 which ended with the Battle of Culloden on 16 April 1746.

The documents are accompanied by transcripts in order to make them easier to read and use. The spelling in the documents is interesting and has been preserved in the transcripts. It is generally fairly easy to guess the meaning of the word. Where a Gaelic or Scots word has been used a translation is given. If further help is required in understanding the documents please contact the archive centre named beneath the document.

The Curriculum for Excellence

The activities and educational resources produced by the Highland Archive Centre are designed to meet the Outcomes and Experiences of the Curriculum for Excellence.

This particular resource has been designed for classes p5-p7 as well as s1-s2 and meets the following outcomes and experiences of the Social Studies area of the CfE:-

P5-p7

- SOC 2-01a “I can use primary and secondary sources selectively to research events in the past.”
- SOC 2-03a “I can investigate a Scottish historical theme to discover how past events or the actions of individuals or groups have shaped Scottish society.”
- SOC 2-04a “I can compare and contrast a society in the past with my own and contribute to a discussion of the similarities and differences.”

- SOC 2-06a “I can discuss why people and events from a particular time in the past were important, placing them within a historical sequence.”

S1-s2

- SOC 3-01a “I can use my knowledge of a historical period to interpret the evidence and present an informed view.”
- SOC 3-02a “I can make links between my current and previous studies, and show my understanding of how people and events have contributed to the development of the Scottish nation.
- SOC 3-05a “I can describe the factors contributing to a major social, political or economic change in the past and can assess the impact of people's lives.”
- SOC 3-06b “Through researching, I can identify possible causes of a past conflict and report on the impact it had on the lives of people at that time.”

Documents and Suggested Activities

The activities suggested are designed for p5-p7 but could be adapted for older, or younger, age groups.

The first Jacobite Rising, 1688-1692 in support of King James II

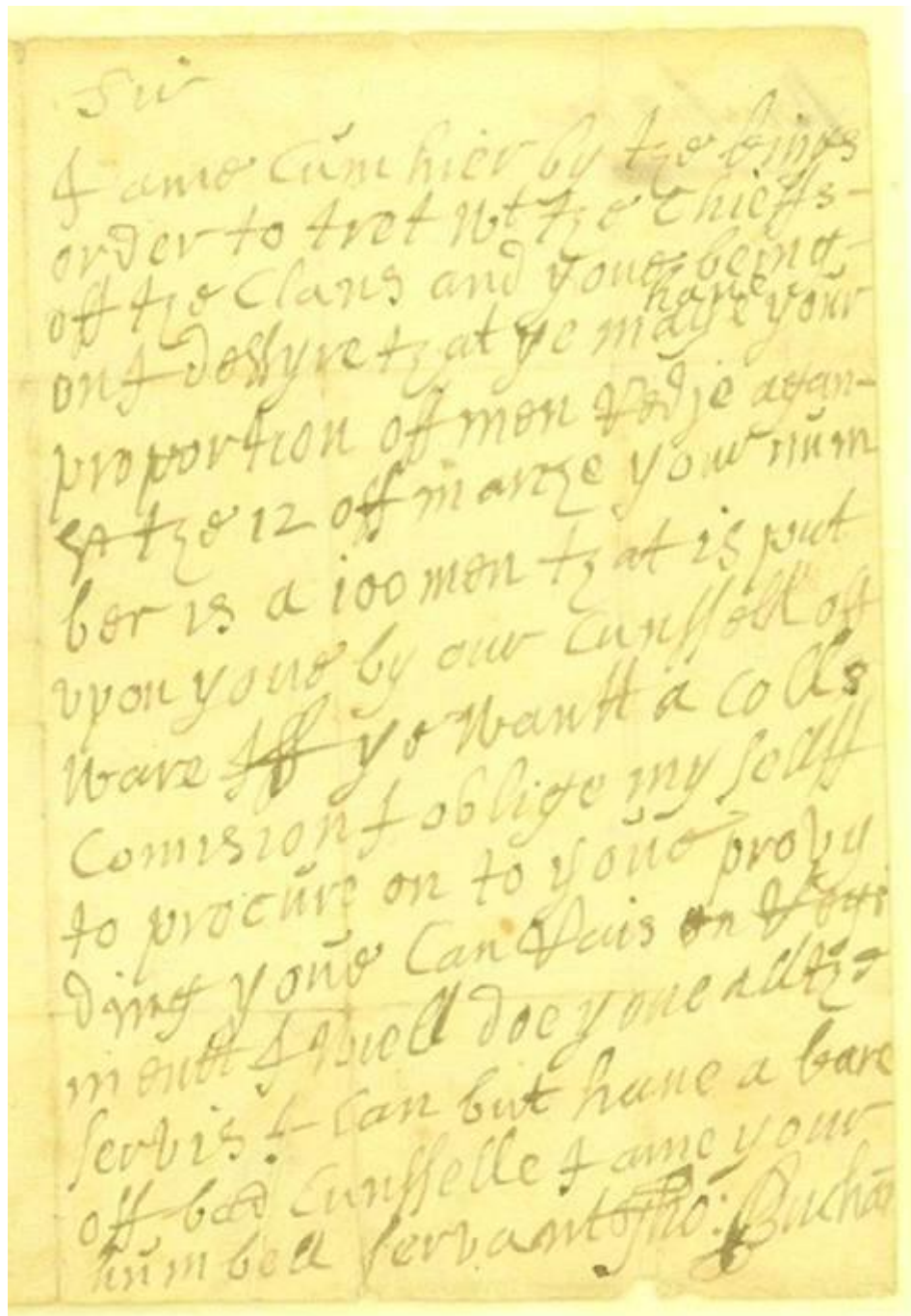
The first attempt to reinstate the Stuarts to the throne began on 16 April 1689 when John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee (Bonnie Dundee), raised James' standard at Dundee Law. At first Viscount Dundee had difficulty in raising many supporters but by July the Jacobites had eight battalions and two companies, almost all Highlanders. The Jacobite forces had mixed fortunes, being victorious at the Battle of Killiecrankie on 27 July 1689, when Viscount Dundee was killed, but defeated at the Battle of Dunkeld on 21 August 1689.



Bonnie Dundee

Early in the spring of 1690 the commander of the Jacobites Thomas Buchan, wrote to Duncan MacPherson of Cluny, Chief of Clan MacPherson, asking him to join the Jacobite cause. Jacobite hopes fell however following defeats at the Haughs of Cromdale on 1 May 1690 and the Battle of the Boyne on 1 July 1690. On 17 August 1691 King William offered all Highland clans a pardon for their part in the Jacobite uprising, provided that they took an oath of allegiance. By the spring of 1692 the Jacobite chiefs had all sworn allegiance to King William and the first Jacobite Rising was over.

Letter from Colonel Thomas Buchan, Jacobite Commander to Duncan MacPherson of Cluny, Chief of Clan MacPherson, in 1690 asking him to join the Jacobite forces.



Sir
I am com^{ing} hie^r by the Kings
order to treat wth the Chiefs
of the Clans and you^r being
one I desire t^hat ye maye have your
proportion of men w^{ch} is again
ye 12 off make your num
ber is a 100 men t^hat is put
vpon you by our Com^{mission} of
Warre If ye want a Col^{ls}
Com^{mission} I oblige my self
to procure on to you^r provy
ding you^r Can^{ons} & s^upp^{ly}
ment I shall doe youe all t^he
servis I can but have a bare
off bod Com^{mission} I am your
true serv^{ant} Tho^s Buchan

Lochaber Archive Centre, West Highland Museum Jacobite collections. Reference L/D142/1/12

Transcript of the letter

'Sir,

I am cum hier by the King's order to tret with the Chieffs of the Clans and youe being one, I dessyre that ye may have your proportion of men readie against the 12 of March, your number is a 100 men that is put upon youe by our Counsel of War. If ye wantt a Colonel's Comision, I oblige my self to procure one to you provyding youe can raise an regimentt. I will do youe all the servis I can but have a care of bad Counselle, I am your humbell servant,

Tho: Buchan'

Activity

The first thing which needs to be done in beginning a rebellion is to find out who would support your cause. There would be no point in starting a rebellion alone! This letter was written for just this purpose.

- Imagine that you are Chief of one of the Highland Clans or Chief of the Highland Clan of your own name and you receive this letter. What would be your response and what kind of things would you need to consider before responding.
 - What do you have to lose?
 - What do you have to gain?
 - Do you trust the person approaching you?
 - Is there any way you can check the facts contained in the letter?
 - Is there any way you can “hedge your bets”?
 - Could you just remain neutral and stay at home?
 - Would you back one side or the other on principle?
- As a class discuss your thoughts and put together a reply.

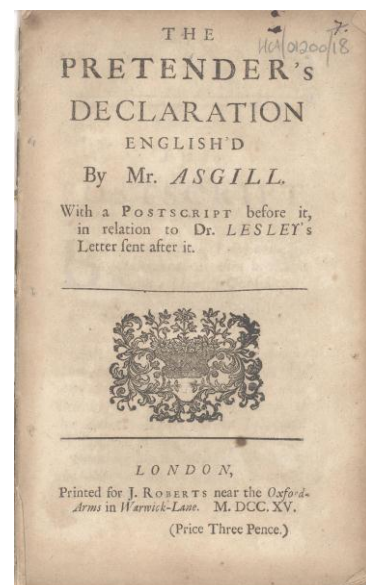
- As a class write to the Highland Archive Centre and the Lochaber Archive Centre to find out if there any more records relating to situations such as the one documented here. Ask the staff in the Archive Centre if they can bring you copies of documents to see or ask the staff if you can organise a visit there to look at the documents.
- Have a look on the internet and see if you can find out anything else about either of the people named in this letter, Colonel Thomas Buchan, Jacobite Commander or Duncan MacPherson of Cluny, Chief of Clan MacPherson.
- Have a look on the internet and see if you can find the poem and song written about John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee (Bonnie Dundee).

The second Jacobite Rising 1715-16 in support of James II's son James Francis Edward Stuart (known as the Old Pretender)

Over twenty years after the failure of the first Jacobite Rising, in the summer of 1715 James Francis Edward Stuart (the Old Pretender) called on John Erskine, 22nd Earl of Mar to raise the clans in his support. Mar responded to the call and on 6 September proclaimed James "their lawful sovereign" and raised the old Scottish standard. The Earl of Mar succeeded in raising an alliance of clans and northern Lowlanders but his forces in Scotland were unable to defeat the government forces commanded by the Duke of Argyll. The Battle of Sheriffmuir on 13 November 1715 was an indecisive engagement but halted the Jacobite advance south. It was therefore regarded as a strategic success by the government and effectively signaled the end of the Rising.



The Old Pretender



Highland Archive Centre

Reference GB0232/D1200/18

James Francis Edward belatedly arrived at Peterhead by ship from France, but his stay was short lived. After briefly setting up court at Scone in Perthshire he retreated to the coast and withdrew to France with Mar on 4 February 1716.

He left a message advising his Highland followers to shift for themselves, that is to say, to look after themselves.

Claims for losses and damages arising from the 1715-16 Rising (1)

The loyalties of clans in the Highlands during the 1715-16 Rising were divided. Inverness and its residents were for two months at the centre of a struggle for power between the opposing forces: the MacIntoshes of Borlum and the MacKenzies of Seaforth to the north were Jacobite supporters and the Roses of Kilravock to the east were Government supporters. The Castle in Inverness was besieged briefly in November of 1715.

The residents of the town tried to continue their lives and livelihoods as usual but found that they were affected in a variety of ways. The rule of law seems to have been laid aside temporarily as personal property was “purloined” and earning a living was threatened.

These two documents come from a large collection which details some of the items taken from Inverness residents and some of the activities which were forced upon them during the Rising. Following the end of the rebellion, the town council was inundated with claims for damages and reimbursement, for items such as shoes and wigs to swords and vegetables.

The first example is a claim made by Donald McBean of Inverness, a brewer of ale by trade.

The second example is a claim made by two fishermen of Inverness whose boat (and its catch) were commandeered during the Rising.

*Account of Damages sustained by Donald McBean Brewer in
Inverness during the late Rebellion.*
*To Excise paid Sir John MacKenzie of Council as per receipt of
dated 30 Sept. 1715. £ 7¹¹ 4¹¹ - 11*
To his wig taken away by one of Sir Donalds men } . 6¹¹ 6¹¹ -
To a broadsword taken out of his house by one of } . 4¹¹ 6¹¹ -
the Earls of Sutherland men worth.
£ 18¹¹ 6¹¹ 0.

Highland Archive Centre, Inverness. Reference GB0232/PA/IB/M/11/1

Transcript (1)

“Accompt of Damnages sustained be Donald McBean, Brewer in Invernes dureing the Late Rebellion.

To Excise paid Sir John McKenzie of Coull as per receipt dated 30 Sept 1715: £7.9.0

To his wigg taken away by one of Sir Donalds men worth: £6.6.0

To a broad sword taken out of his house be one of the Earle of Sutherlands men worth: £4.16.0

£18.6.0”

Activity (1)

Imagine that you are Donald McBean and have had your property (a wig and a broadsword) stolen during the Rising.

- As a class put together ideas as to how this happened.
 - Were they stolen on separate occasions?
 - Were they stolen at the same time?
 - Were they stolen while Donald was outside?
 - Were they stolen while Donald was at home?
 - Were they stolen during the day or during the night?
 - Was Donald wearing them at the time?
- You will need to think about Donald himself.
 - Was he a young or an old man?
 - Was he a tall man or a small man?
- You will also need to think about the thief/thieves.
 - How many were there?
 - Were they men, women or children?
 - Were they caught or did they get away?

- As a class, once you have got together all of your information, decide democratically what characteristics Donald has.
- As a class play out the drama of the thefts.
- As a class write to the Highland Archive Centre and the Lochaber Archive Centre to find out if there any more records relating to situations such as the one documented here. Ask the staff in the Archive Centre if they can bring you copies of documents to see or ask the staff if you can organise a visit there to look at the documents.

Claims for losses and damages arising from the 1715 Rising (2)

A receipt lost and damaged and left due to David Mollash and others
 left for themselves and in name of the crew, labouring the boat
 called the Barbara of four oars since the late Rebellion
 In the month of December last being at sea coming to this place with our full loading
 of Gray fish were apprehended at sea by the Rebels and not only brought prisoners
 with our loading in to Fort George, but all our loading taken from us and our
 selves kept prisoners seven days, our loss damages and expenses and
 other damages suffered thereby of Wends to ————— 24: 00: 00
 When the same time was forced to go with our boat from Inverness
 to Cromarty and transport the Earl of Southdown and the Lord Lovat
 with their men and shouldiers and provisions ————— 16: 00: 00
 For three days labour of our selves and boat in transporting
 shouldiers from Inverness to Fort George for the use of the Government
 being seven pence at 2^d per freight is ————— 14: 00: 00
 At the desire of the above named David Mollash ————— 54: 00: 00
 and others who could not write in testimony
 of the worth of the for said amount by exhibiting
 the pen gable pounds to one David Mollash Notary
 public to Fort George for them all Inverness
 the fourth day of July and then some seven hundredth
 of seven pence *David Mollash Notary public*

Highland Archive Centre, Inverness. Reference GB0232/PA/IB/M/11/1

Transcript (2)

“Accompt loss and damnadges and rest due to David Mullash and Alexander Ross for themselves and in name of their Crew, laboureing the boat called the Barbara of Invernes since the Late Rebellion.

Item in the moneth of december last being at sea coming to this plase with our full loading of Gray fish wer apprehended at sea by the Rebels and not only brought prisoners with our loadings in to Fortrose; but all our loading taken from us and ourselves keepd prisoners seven dayes. Our losses, damnadge and expensses and other damnadges sustained thereby extends to:

£24.00.00

Item the second tyme wer forsed to goe, with our boat, from Invernes to Cromertie and transport the Earl of Sutherland and the Lord Lovat with ther men and shouldiers [soldiers] and provisiones:

£16.00.00

Item for three dayes servise of ourselves and boat in transporting shouldiers [soldiers] from Invernes to Ross sayde for the use of the Government being seven fraughts at £2 per fraught is

£14.00.00

£54.00.00”

At the desire of the above named david Mullash and Alexander Ross, who could not wreit in testimonie of the events of the forsaid accompt, by takkeing the pen gave power to one david Cumans Notarie porblist to subscribe for them. At Invernes the fourth day of Jully one thowsend seven hundredth and sextie yeares.

David Cumans Notarius publicus”

Activity (2)

There is a lot of information contained in this document about activities which are not generally considered when looking at battles or wars. It recounts the experiences of the crew of a fishing boat at the hands of the Jacobite and government forces over a period of days or weeks in 1715-16.

- As a class put together a ship's logbook for the ship in question "The Barabara", recording the events as they happened. The log book needs to contain written accounts, maps and drawings.
 - This will require research into:-
 - the appearance of the fishing boat.
 - the clothing worn by fishermen.
 - the clothing worn by the Jacobites.
 - the uniforms of the soldiers.
 - The arms carried by the Jacobites and the soldiers.
 - You will need to find large scale maps of the area to identify the places named.
- As a class, once you have got together all of your information, divide up into groups who like to draw and groups who like to write.
 - Draw the events described as they were happening, using the images you have already found of clothing, arms, etc.
 - Write personal accounts of what happened as a person involved in them.
 - At the end assemble all of the material into a folder, adding a drawing of the fishing boat and the boat's name to the front.
- As a class write to the Highland Archive Centre and the Lochaber Archive Centre to find out if there any more records relating to situations such as the one documented here. Ask the staff in the Archive Centre if they can bring you copies of documents to see or ask the staff if you can organise a visit there to look at the documents.
- Have a look on the internet and see if you can find out anything about the Siege of Inverness in 1715.

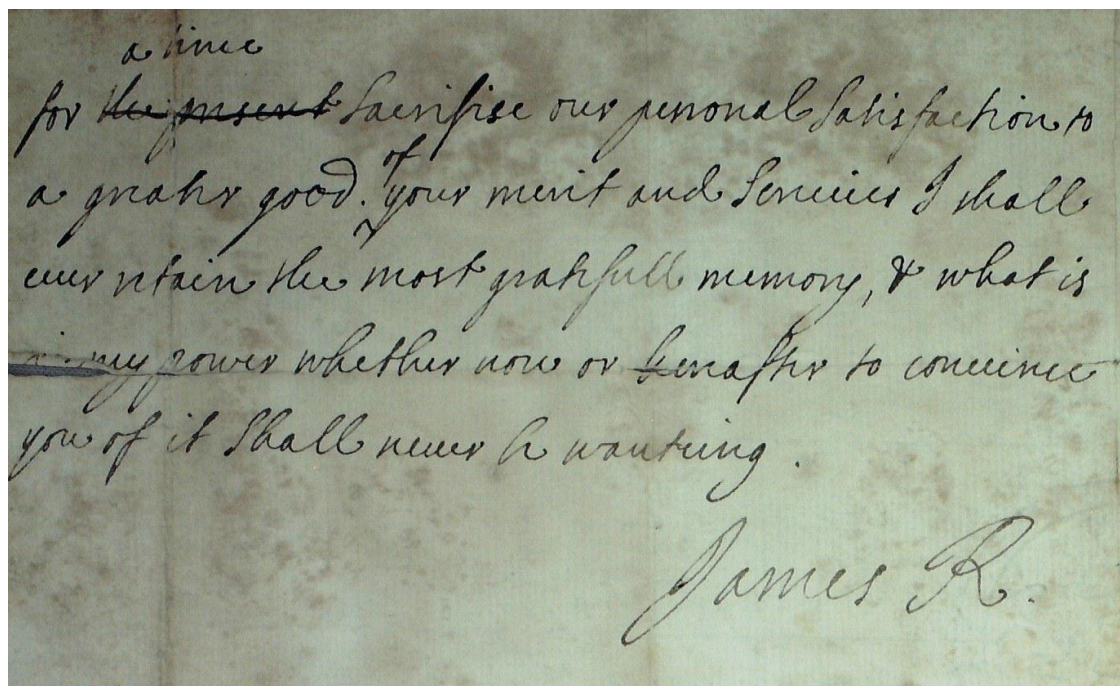
The third Jacobite Rising 1719 in support of James II's son James Francis Edward Stuart (known as the Old Pretender)

Shortly after the 1715-16 Rising another attempt was made to take back the throne for James Francis Edward Stuart. The Jacobites had discovered a new ally in Spain's Minister to the King, Cardinal Giulio Alberoni. With his support an invasion force set sail with two Spanish frigates to land in Scotland to raise the clans. Twenty-seven ships carried 5,000 soldiers to England, but the ships were dispersed by storms before they could land. The two Spanish frigates successfully landed a party of Jacobites led by Lord Tullibardine and Earl Marischal with 300 Spanish soldiers at Loch Duich. They met only lukewarm support from a few Clan Chiefs, John Cameron of Lochiel being one of those. A battle was fought at Glen Shiel on 10 June 1719. The Spanish soldiers were forced to surrender to government forces and John Cameron of Lochiel was wounded in the battle. He was forced to flee to the Continent, never returning to Scotland.

Letter from the Old Pretender, written in Rome the year after the 1719 Rising, to John Cameron of Lochiel in exile in France, thanking him for his support.

Rome. May. 20. 1720. 9

You will have already heard from the Marquis of Tullibardine the satisfaction I received in knowing you were safe on this ~~side~~ the sea, after all the dangers & fatigues ~~xxx~~ ^{you} have gone thro' on my account; the sense I have of them is greater then I can express; and the good of the Service having been all along your only view, you will I am sure easily enter into ^{the} reasons which obliged me to direct you to remain as this juncture some where in France. — your brother is so sensible of them that he doth not remain here very patiently, but I cannot remain here neither quite alone, & his attendance is very agreeable to me. the time will I hope yet come in which we may all meet in a more pleasing place then this, and as our present separation may be conducing to that, we may

A photograph of a handwritten letter on aged, slightly stained paper. The text is written in a cursive script. The letter expresses gratitude and a willingness to sacrifice personal satisfaction for a greater good. The signature 'James R.' is at the bottom right.

a time
for the present sacrifice our personal Satisfaction to
a greater good. Your merit and Services I shall
ever retain the most gratefull memory, & what is
in my power whether now or hereafter to convince
you of it shall never be wanting.

James R.

Lochaber Archive Centre, Cameron of Lochiel papers. Reference L/CL/B/4/9

Transcript of the letter

'Rome. May 20 1720.

You will have already heard from the Marquis of Tullibardine, the satisfaction I received in knowing you were safe on this side of the sea, after all the dangers and fatigue you have gone throw on my account. the sense I have of them is greater then I can express and the good of the Service having been all along your only view, you will I am sure easily enter into the reasons which obliged me to direct you to remain as this juncture some where in france. your brother is so sensible of them that he doth not remain here very patiently, but I cannot remain here neither quite alone and his attendance is very agreeable to me. the time will I hope yet come which wee may all meet in a more pleasing place then this, and as our present separation may be conducing to that we may for a time sacrifice our personal Satisfaction to a greater good. of your merit and Services I shall ever retain the most gratefull memory and what is in my power whether now or hereafter to convince you of, it Shall never be wanting.

James R'

Activity

John Cameron of Lochiel was a staunch Jacobite and had supported the Old Pretender. His reward was banishment from his country. A year after his sacrifice he received this letter.

- Working in groups discuss what you would imagine his thoughts would have been on receiving this. Would he have been-
 - full of regret for becoming involved and being forced to leave Scotland forever?
 - proud to have supported the Old Pretender?
 - hopeful that there was a chance of his situation being improved?
 - angry that it had taken the Old Pretender so long to write to him?
 - fed up with the whole matter and wished to be left alone?
- Coming together as a class, discuss your thoughts.
- Put together a dramatic scene, where Cameron of Lochiel is discussing his thoughts with friends.
 - choose one person to act out the part of Cameron of Lochiel
 - the remaining members of the class to take the role of friends.
- Put yourself in Lochiel's place and write, a letter back to the Old Pretender.
 - Put all of the letters into a file and give the file an appropriate title.
- As a class write to the Highland Archive Centre and the Lochaber Archive Centre to find out if there any more records relating to the situation of Cameron of Lochiel such as the one documented here. Ask the staff in the Archive Centre if they can bring you copies of documents to see or ask the staff if you can organise a visit there to look at the documents.
- Have a look on the internet and see if you can find out anything about the Battle of Glen Shiel.

The fourth Jacobite Rising 1745-46 in support of James II's grandson, Charles Edward Stuart (known as the Young Pretender or Bonnie Prince Charlie)

Following the failures of the Jacobite supporters to secure the throne for the Stuarts, many years passed by before another attempt was made. It was not until 2 August 1745 that Charles Edward Stuart landed on Eriskay, a small island off the west coast of Scotland. A couple of days later on 6 August Charles Edward Stuart was at Borrodale on the Isle of Skye and wrote a letter to Ewen MacPherson of Cluny, Chief of Clan MacPherson, informing him of his intention to set up his standard at Glenfinnan on 19 August. Ewen MacPherson of Cluny came to his support. Although successful in the first instance and advancing to within 125 miles of London, Charles Edward Stuart's Council insisted that their army should return to join the growing force in Scotland. The Jacobite army turned north, losing men and failing to take Stirling Castle or Fort William, but taking Fort Augustus and Inverness Castle. On 16 April 1746 they were defeated at the Battle of Culloden by government forces under the command of the Duke of Cumberland. Charles Edward Stuart abandoned his army and fled to France never to return to Scotland. Ewen MacPherson of Cluny, recipient of the letter, went into hiding after the battle. Despite a reward of £1000 being offered for his capture, he escaped to France in 1755 where he died.

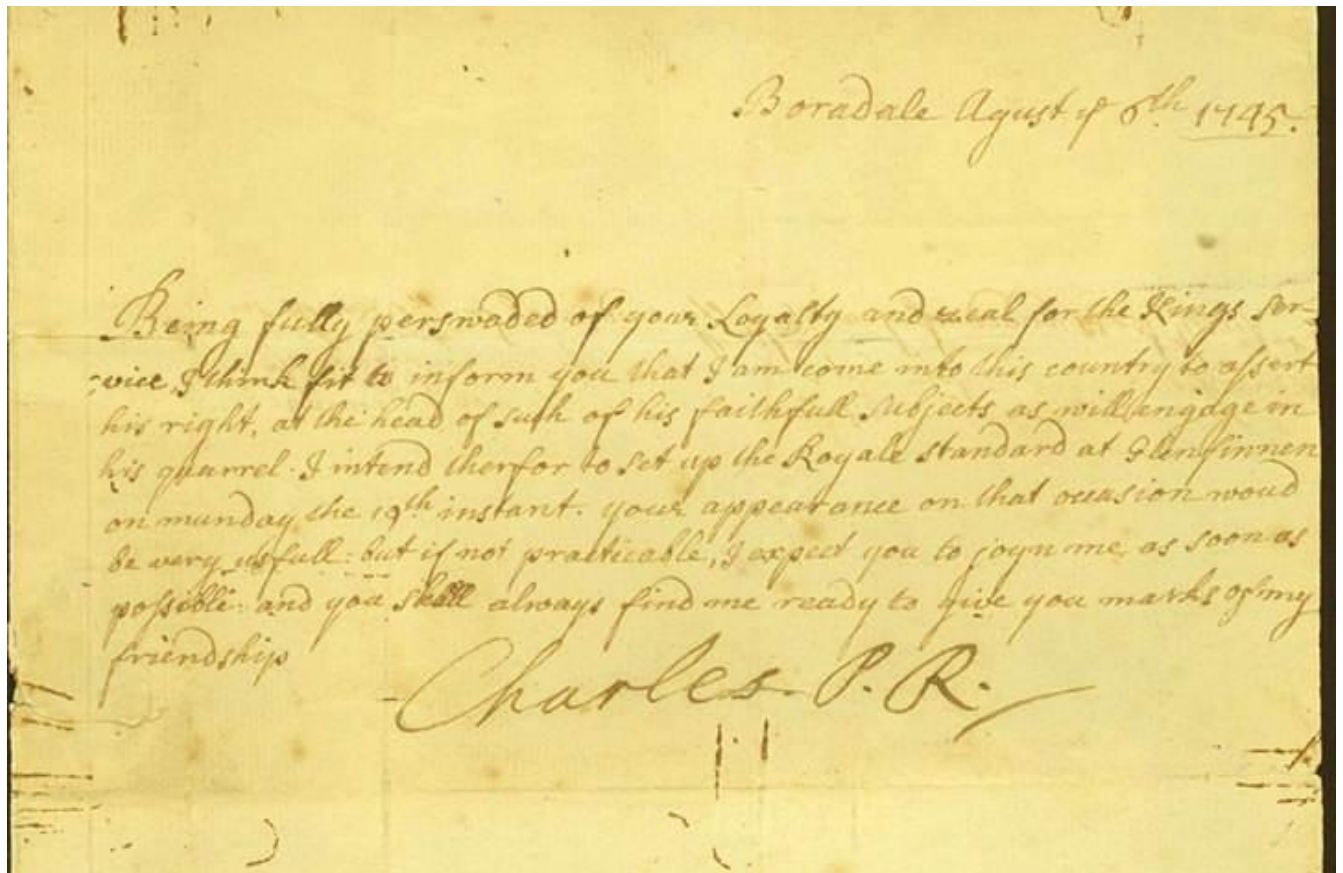
After the battle, Jacobitism as a serious political force in Britain was finished.



Bonnie Prince Charlie

Lochaber Archive Centre, Cameron of Lochiel papers. Reference CL/B/4/35.

Letter from Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) to Ewen MacPherson of Cluny, 1745, asking for his support.



Lochaber Archive Centre, West Highland Museum Jacobite collections. Reference L/D142/6

Transcript of the letter

‘Boradale August the 6th 1745.

Being fully perswaded of your Loyalty and zeal for the King's service, I think fit to inform you that I am come unto this country to assert his right at the head of such of his faithfull subjects as will engage in his quarrel. I intend therfor to set up the Royal Standard at Glenfinnan on Munday the 19th instant, your appearance on that occasion would be very usefull; but if not practicable, I expect you to joyn me as soon as possible and you shall always find me ready to give you marks of my friendship, Charles P. R. [Prince Regent]’

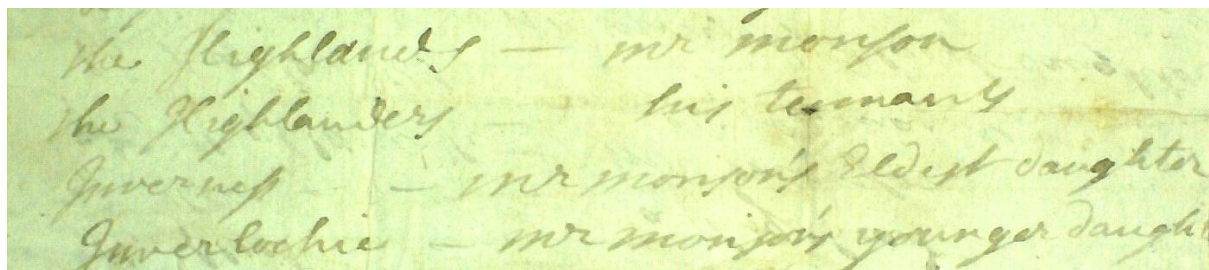
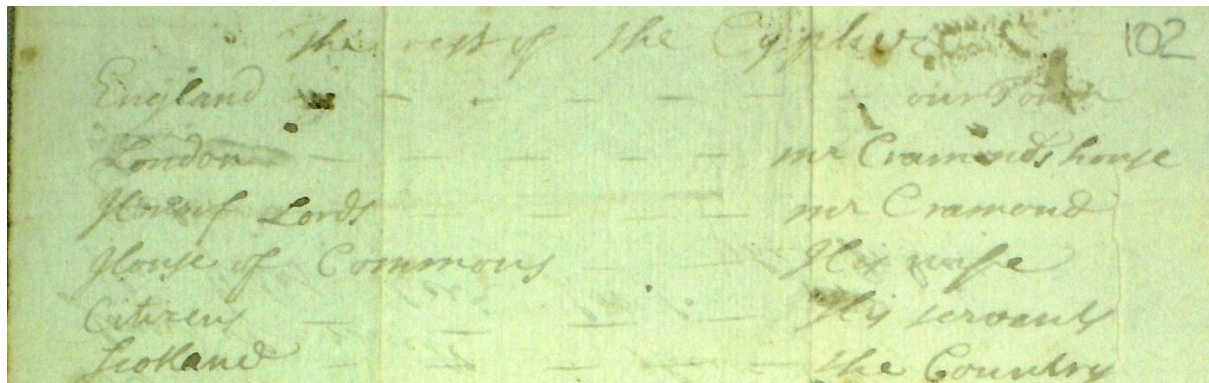
Activity

Letters in the eighteenth century were carried by hand. The problem was that letters could be intercepted by the enemy. This happened to Donald Cameron Lochiel, son of John Cameron of Lochiel, when correspondence between himself and the exiled Stuarts was discovered by the Government. In June 1745 an arrest warrant was issued for Donald Cameron of Lochiel.

One way to prevent unauthorised people reading a message was to use a secret code. The word “cypher” means a secret code. Below you will see two portions of a cypher written during the Jacobite Risings.

- As a class look at the two portions of a cypher from the time of the Jacobites, shown below.
- Working in groups write a proper letter from the Young Pretender (Bonnie Prince Charlie) to Donald Cameron of Lochiel, using some of the words below.
 - Turn your letter into a code by replacing some of the words in your letter with the words below.
- Working together as a class, make a list of words which would be useful as code words and which you all agree upon.
 - Working in pairs, imagine you are a person living at the time of the Jacobite uprising and compose a letter to Bonnie Prince Charlie, using the code words. The letter can be on any subject but must be in code!
 - Once your coded letter is finished give it to another pair who have encoded their own letter, and take theirs.
 - Decipher the encoded letter.
- Put together a folder of the coded and deciphered letters and put an encoded title on the folder.
- As a class write to the Highland Archive Centre and the Lochaber Archive Centre to find out if there any more records such as the cypher documented here or copies of other Jacobite letters which you could encode. Ask the staff in the Archive Centre if they can bring you copies of documents to see or ask the staff if you can organise a visit there to look at the documents.
- Have a look on the internet and see if you can find out anything else about Ewen MacPherson of Cluny.

A cypher (two portions) undated but from the time of the Jacobites.



Lochaber Archive Centre, Cameron of Lochiel papers. Reference L/CL/B/3/102

Transcript of the two portions of the cypher

‘The rest of the Cypher	
England	our Town
London	Mr Cramonds house
House of Lords	Mr Cramond
House of Commons	His wife
Citizens	His servants
Scotland	the Country
The Highlands	Mr Morison
The Highlanders	his tenants
Inverness	Mr Morisons eldest daughter
Inverlochie	Mr Morisons younger daughter’

The aftermath of the last Jacobite Rising

On 1st August 1746, four months after the Battle of Culloden, an Act of Parliament entitled “The Act of Proscription” became law in Scotland. The Act was designed to suppress Highland culture, one section of it, which became known as “The Dress Act”, forbade the wearing of Highland dress, ie the kilt, the penalty being "imprisonment, without bail, during the space of six months, and no longer; and being convicted for a second offence before a court of justiciary or at the circuits, shall be liable to be transported”.

Archibald Chisholm of Glencannich unfortunately fell foul of the Act and was sentenced by the court in Inverness to six months imprisonment in the Tolbooth in the town.

Highland Dress Court Warrant

*At Inverness 10 October 1750 Archbald
Chisolm in Glencarrich of Strathgelf having been
convened before Alex^r Monro Esq^r Sheriff
Substitute of Inverness for using the Felizbegg
contrary to Law The following judgment was
given against the said Archbald Chisolm
The Sheriff having considered this complaint
with the judicial acknowledgment of the said
Archbald Chisolm complained on with the
forgoing Depositions and piece of Plaid pro-
duced Finds the complaint proven and
therefor Decerns and Adjudges the said
Archbald Chisolm to be committed pris on-
er within the Tolbooth of Inverness there
to remain for the space of six Months —
from this Date without Bail And grants
Warrant to and requires the Magistrates
of Inverness and keepers of their Tolbooth
to receive and Detain him accordingly
See Subscribter Alexander Monro
Extracted from the Process Bk
— J^h Mack Bean Esq^r*

Highland Archive Centre, Inverness. Reference GB0232/L/INV/SC/6A/1

Transcript of the warrant

“Inverness 10 October 1750. Archibald Chisholm in Glencanch of Strathgless having been conviened# before Alexander Monro Esquire Sheriff Substitute of Inverness for using the Feligbegg* Contrary to Law, The following Judgment was given against the said Archibald Chisholm. The Sheriff having Considerid this Complaint with the judicial acknowledgement of the said Archibald Chisholm Complained on with the forgoing Depositions and piece of Plaid produced, Finds the Complaint proven and therefor Decerns and Adjudges the said Archibald Chisholm to be Committed prisoner within the Tolbooth of Inverness there to remain for the Space of six Months from this Date without Bail And grants Warrant to and requires the Magistrates of Inverness and keepers of their Tolbooth to receive and Detain him Accordingly.

Sic Subscribitur (thus subscribed) Alexander Monro.

Extracted from the Process By William MackBean”

Conviened-Scots word meaning summoned.

* Feligbegg-Gaelic word meaning small kilt.

Activity

This document seems very straight forward. It’s about a male who was brought to court for breaking the law. But so much more is missing.

- As a class divide up into groups and think about the following.
 - What age is this person? Is he a boy or a man & how old?
 - Why did he break the law? Was it a matter of misunderstanding (what language would he speak) or of making a stand for the sake of his heritage?
 - What would his family think of this?
 - How would he cope with being a prisoner?
 - What would happen to him afterwards?
 - What would the magistrate think about this?

- As a class discuss your thoughts and put together one identity for Archibald.
 - Reconstructing the courtroom scene, with all members of the class to play a part: Archibald, lawyer, magistrate, jury, members of the public.
 - Come back together at the end and discuss your thoughts as a class.
- As a class write to the Highland Archive Centre and the Lochaber Archive Centre to find out if there any more records relating to situations such as the one documented here. Ask the staff in the Archive Centre if they can bring you copies of documents to see or ask the staff if you can organise a visit there to look at the documents.
- As a class use the internet to see if you can find out anything about the kind of house and community Archibald would have come from. He would probably have lived in a black house such as you can see today at the Highland Folk Museum in Newtonmore.

Contact details of the Archive Centres

Caithness Archive Centre

Tel: 01955 606432

Email: north.highlandarchive@highlifehighland.com

Highland Archive Centre

Tel: 01463 256444

Email: archives@highlifehighland.com

Lochaber Archive Centre

Tel: 01397 701942/700946

Email: lochaber.archives@highlifehighland.com

Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre

Tel: 01478 614078

Email: skyeandlochalsh.archives@highlifehighland.com