

## THE 1715 JACOBITE UPRISING



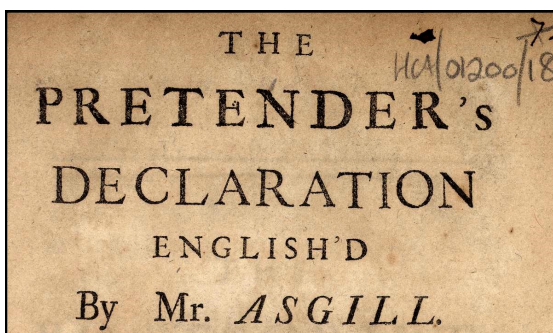
King James II of England and VII of Scotland (son of Charles I) held the thrones of England, Scotland and Ireland from 1685. Although raised a protestant, and having two protestant daughters (Mary and Anne), James spent several years on the continent in the company of Catholics and converted to the religion in his 30s. James's links to Catholicism brought uneasiness to protestant political circles who remembered the recent religious struggles and feared that James would try to establish an 'absolute monarchy' with complete power over his subjects. The birth of his son and heir, James, by his second, Catholic, wife in 1688 brought things to a head. While his protestant daughter Mary had been the successor James had been tolerated but there was now the prospect of a Catholic succession and people were worried.

A group of noblemen invited Mary and her husband William of Orange (who was also James II's nephew) to bring an army to England from Holland. James fled the country and the throne was offered jointly to William and Mary. Supporters of James II rose in his defence. Calling themselves Jacobites (from the Latin for James) they fought a series of rebellions in an attempt to have James and his Catholic Stuart descendants returned to the throne.



JAMES II RECEIVING NEWS OF THE LANDING OF THE PRINCE OF ORANGE, 1688.

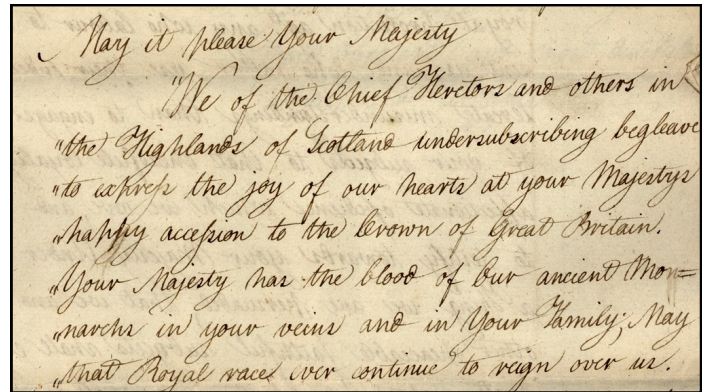
The first skirmishes took place between 1688 and 1692, notably the Battle of Killiecrankie in 1689, which was won by the government forces and saw the death of the uprising's leader John Graham of Claverhouse, 1st Viscount Dundee ('Bonnie Dundee'), and the Battle of the Boyne in Ireland in 1690 - another government victory. The following years saw increased military presence in the Highlands and the gradual growth of support for the Jacobite cause - across the whole of Britain but notably in the Scottish Highlands. The massacre of Glen-



Following the death of Queen Mary in 1694 and King William in 1702 the throne was passed to Mary's protestant sister Anne. King James II died in exile in France in 1701 - the last Catholic monarch of Britain. His son James Stuart, the Chevalier de St George, now took up the fight for the Stuart claim to the throne from France. He later became known as The Old Pretender (the word pretender coming from the French for 'claimant')



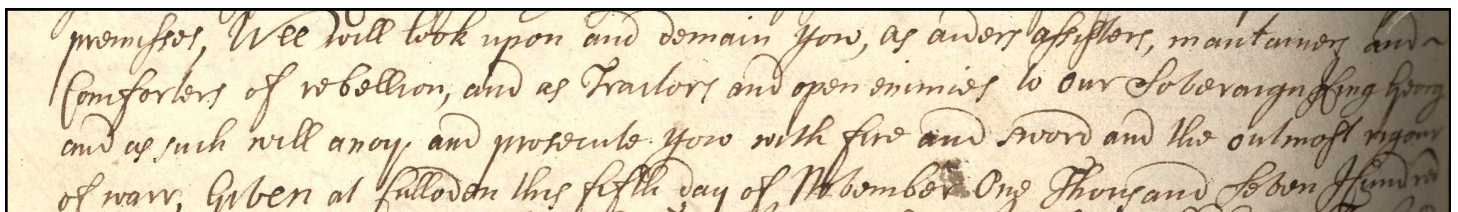
The Jacobite Rising of 1715 (the '15) was prompted by the death of Queen Anne in 1714 without an heir. The Act of Succession, passed in 1701, meant that the throne could now only pass to a Protestant and it therefore came to George - ruler of Hanover, cousin of Queen Anne and stranger to Great Britain. The news was greeted by both celebrations and riots across Britain.



May it please Your Majesty  
 We of the Chief Heritors and others in  
 the Highlands of Scotland undersubscribing beg leave  
 to express the joy of our hearts at your Majesty's  
 happy accession to the Crown of Great Britain.  
 Your Majesty has the blood of our ancient Mon-  
 archs in your veins and in Your Family; May  
 that Royal race ever continue to reign over us.

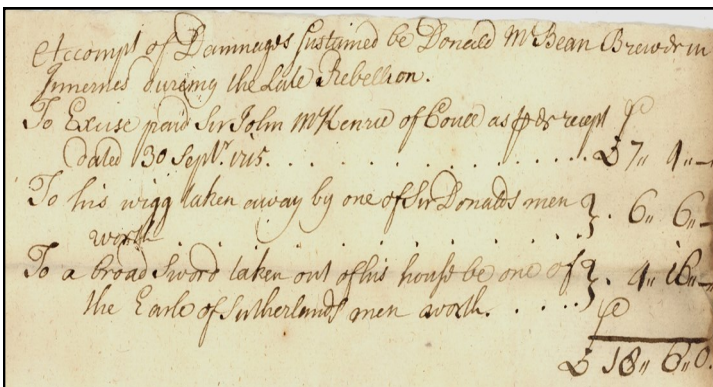


In the Highlands the established church and many clans supported King George I but numerous others lamented that James Stuart had been overlooked and there were immediately plans for a Jacobite rising. The Earl of Mar (who had previously supported the government) now came out in support of James, leading the Jacobite clans to a rally at Braemar in September 1715. In Inverness, John MacKenzie of Coul seized the castle for the Jacobites and established a garrison there. Believing that the magistrates sided with the Jacobites Hugh Rose of Kilravock wrote a furious letter demanding that they turned the rebels out of the castle or faced the consequences.



Whereas, We will look upon and domain you, as accessories, maintainers and  
 comforters of rebellion, and as traitors and open enemies to our Sovereign King  
 and as such will away, and prosecute you with fire and sword and the utmost rigour  
 of war, Given at London this fifth day of November One Thousand Seven Hundred

Denying any conspiracy the magistrates angered Rose of Kilravock, Forbes of Culloden and Fraser of Lovat into planning a siege of the castle. Stealing into the tolbooth to surprise the rebels Arthur Rose was shot dead - the only fatality of the Siege of Inverness. The anger of Hugh Rose was such that the rebels fled the city by the river. The siege was over, leaving government troops in charge of the castle and disgruntled Invernesians claiming for reimbursement for losses in the rebellion. The '15 ended with the inconclusive Battle of Sheriffmuir in November and a brief underwhelming visit from James to Scotland in December. What could have been a successful rising at a time of mass discontentment faded. When the next major rising came many were no longer as supportive of the Jacobite cause.



Account of Damages sustained by Donald Maclean Brewster in  
 Inverness during the late Rebellion.  
 To Excise paid Sir John MacKenzie of Coull as per receipt  
 dated 30 Sept. 1715. . . . . £ 7 11 11  
 To his wig taken away by one of Sir Donald's men . . . . . 6 6  
 To a broad sword taken out of his house by one of  
 the Earle of Sutherland's men worth. . . . . 4 10  
 £ 17 17 0

The next thirty years saw government forces and barracks strengthened across the Highlands. The final (most famous) rising was to take place in 1745-46 when Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie - the Young Pretender - son of James Stuart and grandson of James II/VII) landed in Britain to claim the throne. A rising which would culminate in the Battle of Culloden, the brutal treatment of thousands of Jacobite supporters and the end of the Highland way of life...