



Key Players during the 1715 Jacobite Rising



Anne (1665-1714)

Anne was the second daughter and, with her elder sister Mary, the only other surviving child of James VII's first marriage to Anne Hyde. Despite her father's wishes Anne grew up with a strong Protestant faith. In 1680 it was rumoured she would marry Georg Ludwig, Prince of Hanover and future King George I but Charles II and her father refused the match. Another George, the Prince of Denmark became Anne's husband in 1683. As Mary was unable to bear children the great hope for the marriage was to provide Protestant heirs to the throne. Despite seventeen pregnancies in as many years only five children were born alive and none lived beyond childhood.

By the time Anne succeeded William as monarch in 1702 the succession in England had already been settled on the House of Hanover. Anne refused to admit her Hanoverian heirs into Britain in her lifetime but had no wish for the throne to pass to her half-brother James on her death.

Under Anne the 1707 Act of Union uniting the Scottish and English parliaments was passed. Though it helped secure the Hanoverian succession it also gave the Jacobites something they could use to destroy it.



I have enjoyed the support and loyalty of my people throughout my reign. Now, as my health fails, it is my deepest grief and regret that I do not leave a child of my own to succeed me. Seventeen pregnancies I have endured, and not one of my children has survived. My dear son, William Duke of Gloucester, was cruelly taken from this world by smallpox aged just eleven.

And so, who should succeed me? My heir must be of the Protestant faith. It was my uncle, King Charles II, who insisted that my sister Mary and I should be brought up within the Protestant Church. I thank God I was not brought up in the Catholic communion of my father, but am of a Church that is pious and sincere, and conformable in all its principles to the Scriptures. The Church of England is, without all doubt, the only true Church.

The Jacobites support the exiled James Stuart who claims to be my half-brother, although I have never believed he is the true son of my father. This Catholic Pretender must never inherit the throne. No, after my death the crown will pass to the Protestant Electress Sophia of Hanover and her heirs. There are those in my kingdoms who would invite Sophia and her son to take up residence here in England, but that is something I will never allow. She may succeed me, but I will have no rival court established in this land during my lifetime.