



# Key Players during the 1715 Jacobite Rising



## William (1650-1702) and Mary (1662-1694)

Mary was the eldest daughter of James VII by his first wife. On the instruction of her uncle Charles II, both Mary and her sister Anne were raised Protestant to protect them from the unpopularity of their father's Catholicism. Mary married her cousin William, Prince of Orange in 1677 but the marriage produced no children.

William's mother was sister to both Charles II and James VII but despite the close Stuart connections there was often tension between William and his uncles. The limitation of French power was the driving force in William's life and he began to see that the divisions caused by James's policies would prevent England from acting as a counterweight to French ambition.

From 1687 tension between James and William increased. Politicians began to plot with William's agents, who made clear the Prince's opposition to James's attempts to overturn anti-Catholic legislation without the approval of Parliament.

Following William's successful invasion, legitimised by an invitation from seven English lords, he acceded to the throne with Mary in a unique coronation that recognised a dual monarchy. A foreign king was not a popular choice but Mary provided continuity of the Stuart line.



**William** It is God's will that I should become king of England, Scotland and Ireland. Our invasion of England was necessary, both to preserve peace within these kingdoms and to contain the ambitions of Louis XIV of France. The unwise religious policies of James, who is both my uncle and my father-in-law, threaten to tear the kingdoms of Scotland, England and Ireland apart. We need a united Stuart realm to stand firm against France.

**Mary** I was raised in the Protestant religion, and kept safe from my father's Catholicism. Now my dear husband must save our land from my father's deception. Surely this infant James is not the true child of my father and his wife, but was smuggled in to provide a Catholic heir. The only way to save both church and state is for my husband William to remove my father James from the throne.

**William** If they ask my wife Mary to rule alone as queen, I cannot think to hold anything by apron strings. I will return to Holland and meddle no more with their affairs.

**Mary** I wish to reign jointly with my husband William. I am his wife and never meant to be other than in subjection to him. Now, in the struggles that lie ahead, all I can hope is that God will preserve both my husband and my father.