

Charles Edward Stuart and the '45 - I

Lead: For generations the Stuarts hoped with fond regret of regaining the British crown. The high point of their hopes was the 1745 rebellion led by Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: Having threatened or irritated most of the influential leaders of England, King James II was supplanted in the so-called Glorious Revolution of 1688. The Catholic James had been tolerated as long as he and his queen had no children, but when she became pregnant in June 1688 events quickly moved out of his control. Late that

year in an moment of uncharacteristic timidity, he fled in the face of the invading Dutch armies of William of Orange. For years he watched from French exile with mounting regret as Parliament transferred the throne to William and James' own Protestant daughter Mary. Many in England, however, and especially in Scotland longed for a return of the Stuarts.

As the years passed dissatisfaction with Britain's new rulers drawn from the German Protestant family of Hanover dulled the memory of the Stuart incompetence and stubbornness that had brought about the Glorious Revolution in the first place. In addition, James' heirs were more than willing to fish in troubled waters. In 1708, 1715, and 1719

James' son, James Francis Edward Stuart, the Old Pretender, attempted invasions but they ended in miserable failure.

No matter how much they despised their frumpy and dull German kings, George I and George II, the English would not be ruled by a Catholic. Sitting in their places of exile, the Stuarts were willful and would not change religions. Therefore, they were doomed to a life of constant plots, endless intrigue and futile attempts at invasion which were invariably repulsed. The best chance they had came in 1745. It was led by one of English history's most romantic and dashing figures, the Young Pretender, Charles Edward Stuart. Next time: the '45.

**At the University of Richmond,
this is Dan Roberts.**

Resources

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Erickson, Carolly. *Bonnie Prince Charlie*. New York: Morrow Publishing Company, 1989.

Woosnam-Savage, Robert, ed. *1745: Charles Edward Stuart and the Jacobites*. Edinburgh: HMSO, 1995.

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