



Key Players during the 1715 Jacobite Rising



George I (1660-1727)

George was born at Hanover to Ernst August of Brunswick-Lüneburg and Sophia, the granddaughter of James VI. He married Sophia Dorothea in 1682 and their first child, the future George II was born in 1683. George's military career kept him away from Hanover for long periods of time and the marriage was not a happy one, ending in divorce and the virtual imprisonment of Sophia Dorothea.

With the death of Anne's son in 1700 interest in the Hanoverian succession grew. The next monarch had to be Protestant and a Stuart and despite there being over fifty claimants with a closer hereditary claim, it was George's mother Sophia who was the first Protestant in line. So began a period in which Sophia was drawn into British party politics to the annoyance of both Queen Anne and George who tried to keep his family out of Britain until Anne's death. These party rivalries influenced who was invited to form the first Hanoverian government, with some of those left out drawn to the Jacobite cause. Sophia died less than two months before Queen Anne and so it was her son George who inaugurated the Hanoverian dynasty with his coronation on 20 October 1714.



I am Georg Ludwig, Elector of Hanover, and I have recently also been crowned King George I of Great Britain and Ireland.

I have had a long wait for the British throne. In the year seventeen hundred and one my mother Sophia was named as heir to Queen Anne. My grandmother Elizabeth was the daughter of King James VI of Scotland and I of England, making us the true Protestant heirs of this kingdom. But my mother did not always understand the situation. She wanted to get involved in British politics, and even to come and live in England. I knew, however, that to do so would be to anger Queen Anne and perhaps even to endanger our succession.

Now my mother Sophia and Queen Anne are both dead, and I inherited the throne without difficulty. It will take a little time to come to know this country, and to speak their language. I am determined to remove from power those Tories who made peace with Louis XIV of France, and who may even be sympathetic to James, the Catholic Pretender. I will replace them with the Whig politicians who have been loyal to the House of Hanover.

Now James Stuart, the Catholic Pretender, seeks to raise a rebellion and seize my throne, but I have no fear of him. I am a great military commander and I will ensure I have loyal colonels ready to defeat him.

Soon all will be peaceful, and I will be able to visit my beloved Hanover once more.