



Famous Scottish People

There are so many famous Scottish people throughout history that of course it's impossible for us to list them all!

Here are a handful (or two) of famous Scots who have played significant roles in Scotland's past.....

Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) (1720 - 1788)

Grandson of King James VII, and a direct descendant of Robert the Bruce, also known as the 'Young Pretender'.

He led a rebellion against the English which was defeated at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

Charlie fled to France, aided by Flora MacDonald.





John Pettie (1834-93), Bonnie Prince Charlie Entering the Ballroom at Holyrood-house, perhaps accompanied by Cameron of Lochiel (c. 1700-1748), and Alexander Forbes, 4th Lord Pitsligo (1678-1762)

*God bless the prince, I pray,
God bless the prince, I pray,
Charlie I mean;
That Scotland we may see
Freed from vile Presbyt'ry,
Both George and his Feckie.
Even so. Amen.*

Sung to the tune of "God save the King"



Flora MacDonald (1722 - 1790)

Flora was born on the Outer Hebridean Island of South Uist.

Chance events led to her helping Bonnie Prince Charlie escape to France after his defeat at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

The daring and dangerous escape is commemorated in the song 'Over the Sea to Skye'.



The Story of Bonnie Prince Charlie and Flora MacDonald, is regarded as one of the most romantic in Scottish History.

Flora MacDonald is famously known for helping Bonnie Prince Charlie escape from Scotland after the defeat of the Jacobite's in the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

Bonnie Prince Charlie [Prince Charles Edward Stuart] led the **second Jacobite Uprising** of 1745 to overthrow King George II. The part that Flora played in the escape of Bonnie Prince Charlie 'over the sea to Skye' is immortalised in the 'Skye Boat Song', published in 1884:

*“ Speed bonnie boat like a bird on the wing,
Over the sea to Skye,
Carry the lad that’s born to be King,
Over the sea to Skye...”*

So goes the famous Skye Boat Song, which owes its origins to the daring mission of mercy undertaken by Flora MacDonald, a young Highland woman who risked her life out of compassion for a fugitive Prince who had staked everything on a bid to win a kingdom and lost.

Flora MacDonald’s adventure with ‘Bonnie Prince Charlie’ began in 1764 on the Outer Hebridean island of South Uist.

Flora’s benefactor, Lady Clanranald, was a Jacobite sympathiser, so Flora was kept closely informed of the Prince’s whereabouts after the defeat of his troops at Culloden.

Although not an ardent Jacobite supporter herself, Flora was touched by the unfortunate plight of the Prince, who now had a price of £30,000 on his head, was being hunted all over the Highlands and Islands by government soldiers.

So when a plan was hatched to smuggle the Prince to the relative safety of Skye, Flora agreed to play a part in it.

In June 1746, Bonnie Prince Charlie finally landed on South Uist with a couple of loyal supporters. There they met Flora, and arrangements were made to disguise the Prince as ‘Betty Burke’, an Irish maidservant, and conduct him to Skye. After a few days’ preparation, they sailed in a small boat ‘over the sea to Skye’, just as the militia landed nearby.

The Prince was dressed in a calico gown, quilted petticoat and headdress to disguise his face.



A depiction of the Prince dressed as a maid...looks the part doesn't he

After landing safely on Skye, the Prince's perilous wanderings continued for a few more weeks, until finally he managed to escape mainland Scotland on a ship bound for France.

He and Flora were destined never to meet again.

Shortly afterwards, Flora was imprisoned in London for her part in the 'Young Pretender's' escape, but she was soon released and became a society heroine, for even then the story of her courage captured the imagination of the public.

She was even introduced to the Prince of Wales, and had her portrait painted by fashionable artists of the day.

Flora married the son of McDonald of Kingsburgh and emigrated with him to North Carolina, where he became a Brigadier General on the royalist side in the American War of Independence. He was taken prisoner there but eventually he and Flora returned once more to his ancestral home, Kingsburgh, on Skye.

Flora MacDonald died in Skye in 1790, and her grave can be seen today, not far from the place where she first landed with '*the lad who was born to be King*'.





FLORA MACDONALD
PRESERVER OF
PRINCE CHARLES EDWARD STUART
HER NAME
WILL BE MENTIONED IN HISTORY
AND IF COURAGE AND FIDELITY
BE MENTIONED
MENTIONED WITH HONOUR

SOUTH UIST

Born Charles Edward Louis John Philip Casimir Sylvester Maria Stuart at Palazzo Muti, Rome, Italy, the eldest son of son of James Francis Stuart, 1st and last Duke of Cornwall and Marie Sobieski; and grandson of the deposed British monarch, James II.

Given a classical education, and exposed to military life early, he became the embodiment of the Jacobite cause, which was dedicated to placing the descendants of James II's second marriage on the British throne.

In pursuit of the throne, Charles seized an opportunity at a time when the incumbent British monarch was in Hanover and the bulk of the British Army was fighting in Flanders and Germany, and he led an expeditionary force to Scotland, landing at Eriskay in July 1745 and proclaimed his father king.

Encouraged by a promise of support from France, by September he had rallied thousands of Highlanders to his cause and they had taken the city of Edinburgh.

The Jacobite forces marched south but failed to collect hoped for support. Having reached Derby, they chose to withdraw when they found little domestic support and no foreign aid. After a victory at Clifton, the Jacobite cause was utterly destroyed in April 1746 at the Battle of Culloden.

Charles was hunted as a fugitive for more than five months before he was spirited away into hiding on Skye and then escaped to France.

Two years later he was expelled from France, and for several years he wandered about Europe. In 1766, after his father's death, he returned to Italy.

At the request of the French court, he married Louise zu Stolberg-Gerden in April 1772, she left him in 1780. His only child, however, was an illegitimate daughter, whom he designated his heir.

A bitter and disappointed alcoholic, his health spiralled until at the age of sixty-seventh, he suffered a stroke which left one side of his body paralyzed. He died after a month's illness and was interred at Saint Peter's Basilica.

He has also been called The Young Pretender and Bonnie Prince Charlie.



Memorial to Charles Edward Stuart – The Bonnie Prince.



A Woman's Hand

A woman's hand, in jewels dressed,
Or wearied by life's toilsome quest,—
 Though supple, dimpled, clinging,
bold,
 Though wrinkled, trembling, cringing,
old,—
Is ever strong and ever blessed.

Rich stores of tenderness confessed,
Sweet welcomes lingering in the breast,
 Love, sympathy, and hope enfold
 A woman's hand.

In toyings of the cradle-nest,
In sweetheart's shyly made behest,
 In maiden's touch or mother's hold,—
 Wherever hearts must be controlled,
Earth's highest, sweetest powers invest
 A woman's hand.

—Charles Moreau Harger

