

**HISTORY OF ENGLAND:
1603-1690, FROM THE
ACCESSION OF JAMES I TO
THE BATTLE OF THE BOYNE**

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HISTORY OF ENGLAND,

1603-1690.

JAMES I.

Dates of Birth, Accession, and Death.—1566 (at Edinburgh), March 24, 1603-1625, March 27, (at Theobalds, Herts.—of ague and gout, aggravated by his refusal to take medicine, and by unskilful treatment).

Descent.—Only child of Mary, Queen of Scots, by Lord Darnley.

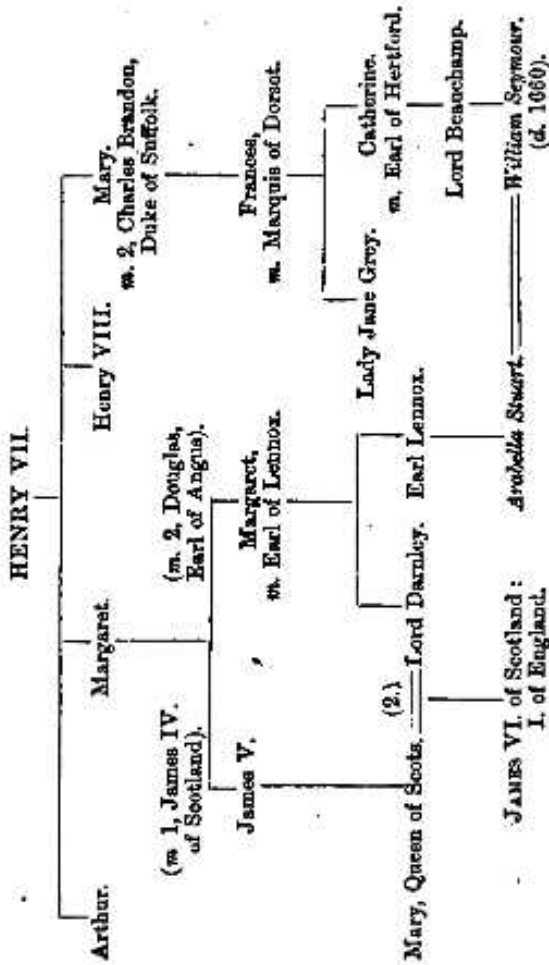
The table on next page will show his,—and also Arabella Stuart's, and William Seymour's,—descent from Henry VII.

Became King (James VI.) of Scotland, when about a year old, his mother being compelled to resign, in consequence of his father's murder,—educated chiefly by Geo. Buchanan,—entered into alliance with Elizabeth, 1585, receiving £5,000 a year pension, continuing, from prudential motives, the connexion spite of his mother's execution. During his reign in Scotland two attempts, (one the Raid of Ruthven, successful, and resulting in his captivity for 10 months), were made by the lawless nobles to seize him. Chosen by Elizabeth as her successor.

Married, 1589, Anne, daughter of Frederick II. of Denmark (1575-1619).

Married James by proxy, bringing as part dower the Islands of Orkney and Shetland. Detained by storms on her way to England in Norway, whither James went to fetch her. Took no share in politics,—spent the latter part of her life in seclusion, through illness. Wanting in intelligence and education, gay, frivolous, good-natured; extravagant.

Issue.—Henry (a very accomplished and promising prince, *d.* 1612)—Charles I.—Elizabeth (*m.* Frederick, Elector Palatine)—Robert, and Mary (died young).



Claim to the Throne.—*Good by descent: bad legally.* He was the nearest living lineal descendant of Henry VII., and consequently the hereditary successor to Elizabeth, the preceding sovereign; but Parliament had granted Henry VIII. the power to regulate the succession, which he had done by a will ordering that, if Edward, Mary, and Elizabeth died childless, the crown should pass to the heirs of his younger sister Mary, Duchess of Suffolk—thus excluding the Scotch branch, descended from his elder sister Margaret, and to which James belonged.

The legal heir, at James's accession, was, according to Henry VIII.'s will, *William Seymour*, who was the nearest living representative of the Suffolk family.

The crowns of England and Scotland were united in James, who thus became the *First King of Great Britain*: the complete union of the two kingdoms was not, however, effected till 1707, by the Act of Union.

Character.—Of medium height, stoutish, awkward in gait (through weak knees); slovenly; mean, and undignified, while pompous, in address.

Of excellent natural abilities; shrewd, sagacious; but conceited, obstinate, selfish, crafty, pusillanimous, and childishly weak in his favoritism.

"The most learned fool in Christendom," his scholarship being spoiled by vanity and pedantry: an ardent believer in, and student of, demonology and witchcraft; esteemed himself an all-accomplished theologian.

An extraordinary mixture of sense and folly, and mass of contradictions: "no prince was ever so much exposed to the extremes of calumny and flattery, of satire and panegyric."

Possessed with an overweening sense of his Divine right and prerogative, whence, as transmitted to his descendants, came the Civil War and the Revolution.

Sincerely religious; on the whole, a good husband and father, though *soft* in the latter respect.

WARS.

1. In Aid of the Elector Palatine.—The Bohemian Protestants, having revolted from the Emperor Matthias, on account of his intolerance and unconstitutional government, would not own his successor, Ferdinand II., but

made Frederick, the Elector Palatine, their sovereign. Austria and Spain allied to recover Bohemia for Ferdinand, and to drive Frederick from his own dominions. The English were eager to assist the Elector Palatine; but James sent his son-in-law only 4000 troops.

Frederick was defeated at the *Battle of Prague*, 1620, and soon after lost all his territory. The contest, however, lasted from 1618 to 1648, and is hence called the THIRTY YEARS' WAR. It was ended by the PEACE OF WESTPHALIA, which restored to the Elector the greater part of the Palatinate.

2. With Spain, 1624.—A marriage treaty had been arranged between Prince Charles and the Spanish Infanta. Buckingham induced James to allow him and the Prince to visit the Court of Spain *incognito*, in order that Charles might see his future wife. Buckingham's haughty manners made him disliked by the Spaniards, and he, in revenge, prevailed upon Charles to break his engagement. At the next meeting of Parliament after their return to England, Buckingham so misrepresented matters to the Lords as to convey the impression that Spain had grossly insulted England. The result was a declaration of war. Large supplies were voted, and 12,000 troops, under Count Mansfield, were sent to the aid of the Elector Palatine. Half the number died in transit, owing to the overcrowding of the transports, so that, on reaching the Palatinate, Mansfield was obliged to remain passive and useless.

PLOTS AND REBELLIONS.

1. The Main Plot, 1603.—The chief *conspirators* were Lord Cobham, his brother, George Brooke, and, perhaps, Sir Walter Raleigh. Their *object* appears to have been to raise Arabella Stuart to the throne, with the assistance of Spain.

2. The Bye Plot, or "Surprising Treason," 1603.—The chief *conspirators* were Sir Griffin Markham, a zealous Papist; Clarke and Watson, two Roman Catholic priests; George Brooke, who was thus engaged in this and in the "Main;" and Lord Grey. Their *object* was to seize James, and alter the Government,—the Roman Catholics engaged intending to obtain, as one of these changes, toleration for
sect.

Cecil knew of the progress of both plots, and, before any active steps were taken by the conspirators, he caused them to be arrested and tried. All were found guilty of high treason. Brooke, Clarke, and Watson were executed. Raleigh and the rest were kept in prison.

3. The Gunpowder Plot, 1605.—The chief conspirators were Robert Catesby, Thomas and Robert Winter, John and Christopher Wright, Sir Harry Percy, Rookwood, Grant, Bates, Sir Everard Digby Francis Tresham, and Guido Fawkes. Three Papist priests—Garnet, Greenway, and Gerard—were privy to it. The *object* of the plot was to blow up James and his Parliament at their re-assembling, as the great step towards restoring Roman Catholicism.

Parliament was to have met in February. The conspirators took a house adjoining the Lords, which they commenced undermining. Parliament was, however, further prorogued till the autumn, and they accordingly ceased operations for a time. Meanwhile, a cellar under the House of Lords was to let; the conspirators took it, and stored in it thirty-six barrels of gunpowder, which they concealed by means of faggots. The *5th of November* being finally fixed for the opening of Parliament, the following arrangements were made:—Fawkes was to fire the powder by a slow match, after lighting which he was to escape;—Percy was to obtain possession of Prince Charles, whom they meant to succeed his father;—and Digby and a party of his friends—assembled, on pretext of hunt, at Dunchurch—were to proceed to Lord Harrington's seat, near Coventry, and seize the Princess Elizabeth.

At the end of October, Lord Monteagle received a letter (doubtless from Tresham, his brother-in-law) warning him to absent himself from the Parliament about to assemble, and using the significant words,—“They shall receive a terrible blow this Parliament, and yet they shall not see who hurts them.” When James read the letter he at once grasped its import. On the morning of the 5th the cellar was searched. Fawkes was taken at the door, and all the preparations discovered.

As soon as the other conspirators heard of the arrest of Fawkes, they hastened to Dunchurch; but the gentlemen assembled there refused to join them. They then fled to

Holbeach, where one of them had a house. Here they were attacked by the sheriffs of Warwick and Worcester. Rookwood, Thomas Winter, and Grant were taken;—Catesby Percy, and the Wrights were shot;—Bates, Robert Winter, and Digby escaped, but were soon after captured.

Fawkes was meanwhile tortured, and, when he knew that his accomplices had betrayed themselves by their acts subsequent to his arrest, gave full information of the plot.

Digby, Rookwood, Fawkes, Grant, Bates, and the Winters were tried for high treason, condemned, and executed.

Of the priests, Gerard and Greenway escaped; but Garnet was taken, and executed as an accessory, though he pleaded that it was in the inviolable confidence of confession that he had gained a knowledge of the plot.

A Rising in the Midland Counties, 1607.—Under Reynolds (*alias* Captain Pouch),—to destroy new enclosures of land. Reynolds and others were taken, and executed as traitors.

JAMES'S PARLIAMENTS.

First, (1604-1611).—*Main Events:*—

A contest with James, in consequence of his denying their right of settling disputed elections. The Commons successfully upheld their prerogative.

The passing of harsh laws against Popish recusants. Roman Catholics were ordered to take an oath that they "abhorred, detested, and abjured as impious and heretical, the damnable doctrine that princes excommunicated by the Pope may be deposed, or murdered, by their subjects."

A consideration of a proposal by James to unite England and Scotland,—decided against, in consequence of the partiality shown by the King towards the Scots.

A protest against levying Custom-dues at the seaports, without the sanction of Parliament.

Second, (the "Addled Parliament") 1614.

James wanted supplies, and was therefore compelled to assemble the Commons. In order to insure an obedient House, he employed persons, named "*undertakers*," to manipulate the elections in his favour. They failed, however. The House, on meeting, instead of granting supplies, began to discuss grievances, and James promptly dissolved it.

Third, (1621-1622).—Main Events :—

A declaration against monopolies.

Sir Giles Mompesson impeached for abuse of his monopolies in making gold and silver thread, and in licensing taverns. He was found guilty, and unknighthed.

Lord Bacon impeached for receiving bribes in his office of Lord Chancellor. He was declared guilty, debarred from ever again occupying any official post, fined £40,000, and sentenced to imprisonment during James's pleasure.

Floyd, a Roman Catholic barrister, prosecuted in consequence of a harmless expression of sympathy with the Papists of Prague. He was sentenced to ride through London facing his horse's tail, to be pilloried, branded, whipped, fined, and imprisoned for life.

A contest with James, who denied their right to discuss affairs of State. The Commons entered on their Journals a declaration that "The liberties of Parliament are the undoubted birthright of the subjects of England ; that all matters of debate are fit subjects for discussion there ; that every member has a right to freedom of speech, and that no member can be lawfully imprisoned or molested for his conduct in Parliament, except by order of the House itself."

James tore this record out, dissolved Parliament, and imprisoned Coke, Pym, and other independent members of the House.

Fourth, (1624—James's demise).—Main event :—

The Earl of Middlesex impeached for bribery and other abuses in his office of Lord Treasurer. He was found guilty, debarred from ever again sitting in Parliament, fined £50,000, and sentenced to imprisonment during James's pleasure.

TREATIES.

Peace with Spain and Austria, 1604.—James agreed no more to aid the people of the Netherlands.

ECCLESIASTICAL AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS.

Primates.—Whitgift ; Bancroft ; Abbott.

Millenary Petition, 1603.—The Puritans, encouraged by the fact that James had been brought up a Presbyterian, drew up the **MILLENNARY PETITION**,—so called from the expectation that 1000 clergymen would sign