ON REFLECTION

Memorialising... the Glencoe Massacre

King James VII was the last Catholic monarch on the British throne. When he was deposed by his Protestant son-in-law, many people were deeply unhappy. Those who longed for a return of James's line became known as Jacobites. Over the decades that followed, there were many attempts made to reclaim throne.

Life for many ordinary citizens who sympathised with the Jacobite cause could be very dangerous!

WATCH

In February 1692, the clansfolk of Glencoe famously had an example made of them – with terrible and tragic consequences. When they failed to pledge their allegiance to the new monarchs Willian III and Mary II on time, orders were given for the way out of the Glen to be blocked and for the murder of anyone found in the glen.

It is now thought that approximately thirty members of the MacDonald clan were massacred in their homes. The order read 'You are hereby ordered to fall upon the rebels the MacDonalds of Glencoe, and to put all to the sword under seventy.'

Watch the Highland Explorer video about Fort William – and see the room where order for the Glencoe Massacre was signed.

You can also explore the diorama of the Glencoe Massacre on this site.

READ

The company of 120 men from the Argyll's regiment, led by Robert Campbell of Glenlyon were staying in the homes of Glencoe people at the time of the massacre. They'd asked for 'free quarter' there, hospitality instead of taxes, claiming that the nearby garrison was full.

Many of the soldiers are known to have been shocked by the order to attack the families that had given them hospitality – they were being asked to commit what was known as 'slaughter under trust'. Some of them tried to warn their hosts.

Read 'A Soldier visits an Inn', a folk tradition tale on this site inspired by one of the survival stories.

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TRY IT YOURSELF

Design your own secret symbol.

What messages would you want to send?

EXPLORE

Unsurprisingly, many Highlanders continued to long for the return of a Jacobite king, one who would be sympathetic to the Highland people. Support was clandestine – deeply secretive!

Explore the secret portrait on this site. The portrait of Bonnie Prince Charlie could be displayed in a Jacobite supporter's home without arousing suspicion... the portrait is only revealed when viewed with a mirrored cylinder!





CREATE A COMMEMORATION

Use this page to plan your ideas.



Who do you want to commemorate?
Why do you want to remember what happened to them?
Willy do you want to remember what happened to them.
What could your design look like? What shapes or pictures could you include?
What record a could you write?
What message could you write?

