

The Stuarts

James I



1603-1625

Charles I



1625-1649

Charles II



1660-1685

James II



1685-1688

William III and Mary II



1688-1702



1688-1694

Anne



1702-1714

The House of Stuart marks the beginning of the United Kingdom being ruled by one monarch. Despite this, Scotland and England were not formally brought together until 1717. The Stuarts came from Scotland where monarchs had more control and power than their counterparts in England.



The Gunpowder Plot.

In 1605, not long after James I had become King of England as well as Scotland a group of men, led by Robert Catesby, plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament while King James I was there. The men were all Catholics and King James I was a Protestant. Laws were being passed that made life for Catholics very difficult. Although the plot was discovered and the men punished it is remembered to this day. The most well known of the plotters is Guy Fawkes.



The English Civil War: 1642:1651

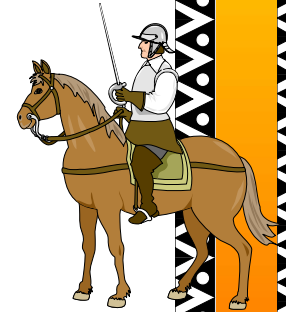


When Charles I became king he ended up in a bitter fight against parliament. His rights as king were being taken away and Charles I was not pleased. He decided to surround the Palace of Westminster with hundreds of his soldiers and arrest five Members of Parliament. He accused them of treason but they all managed to escape. This was considered a huge scandal and the king had to flee London.

This led to the beginning of the war, which was fought between the Cavaliers, who were supporters of the king, and the Roundheads, who were supporters of parliament. The war led to the execution of Charles I and his son, Charles II, was exiled.

Changes in England

England became a republic for eleven years, starting in 1649. At first England was ruled by parliament (the Commonwealth of England) but in 1653 it was ruled by a Protectorate and Oliver Cromwell, Commander of the Army, became Lord Protector of England. Cromwell did not want to be king and refused the crown when it was offered to him. He continued in his position of Lord Protector of England until his death in 1658. His son, Richard, took over the position for a short time but Charles II regained the monarchy in 1660.



The Restoration

When Charles II returned to the throne he restored the Stuart line as rulers of Britain. He oversaw a lot of good things: he saw London recover from the Plague and the Great Fire (1666) and many new buildings were built in the city, including St. Paul's Cathedral. The

Stuart line then continued until the death of Queen Anne in 1717.

