

## Bonnie Prince Charlie

The Great Gallery is the last of the State Rooms built for Charles II. His great-nephew, Bonnie Prince Charlie, was the last of the Stuarts to stay at the Palace. He used it as a splendid background for the start of an attempt to regain the British throne for his family.

His grandfather, James VII and II, had been deposed and replaced by the House of Hanover, because of his Catholic faith. In 1745, the Prince arrived in Scotland from exile in Europe, gathered around him a group of supporters known as Jacobites, after the Latin for James – Jacobus - and set up court at Holyroodhouse for five weeks.

It's said that he held a glittering ball in this room before he set off with his army towards England on his great but ill-fated adventure. The Bonnie Prince was ultimately defeated at Culloden in 1746, and he escaped to exile in Rome.