

## Facts

### George II

Born in 1683

Ascended in 1727

Died in 1760, aged 76

Reigned for 33 years

Married to Caroline of Ansbach-Bayreuth bearing 3 sons and 5 daughters.

George II, the only son of George I, was born in Hanover in 1683. He died at Kensington Palace in 1760 and was the last king to be buried at Westminster Abbey.

The British did not love George much more than his father and, like him, he remained aloof and distant to his kingdom. He was a great fighter and left the political side to the politicians while he concentrated on his love of war. This meant that the House of Commons gained greater power with their new head: the *Prime Minister*, Sir Robert Walpole.

During George's reign, England went to war with France over a dispute about the Austrian succession. This was the last time that a king of England rode into battle (at the age of 60) and it occurred at the battle of Dettingen. There were also disputes with France over Canadian soil and a minor war with Spain over piracy in the Caribbean.

At home the King saw trouble with the Jacobite uprisings and Prince Charles Edward, the son of the Stuart Pretender (the Young Pretender, Bonnie Prince Charlie). Since the Hanoverian monarchy had definite German roots, and both George I and George II had disliked England, the Young Pretender had hoped to receive massive English support. He travelled from exile in France and landed in Scotland, where he gathered many troops under his father who he called King James VIII of Scotland. Prince Charlie went as far as Culloden before he was cruelly defeated by King George's troops and the entire force was massacred, leaving no survivors. Bonnie Prince Charlie was forced to escape England wearing women's clothing.

In the reign of George II, in 1752, the Calendar changed from the Julian to the Gregorian. This was nearly 200 years after most of Europe had

