

The Hidden Stories of Black Jacobites

The Scottish English Podcast – Episode 38



LANGUAGE LEARNING

*Transcript & Upper-intermediate and Advanced
Vocabulary Guide*

Below is the transcript with all selected B2, C1, and above vocabulary and phrases in **bold**. After the transcript, you'll find a table with definitions, British English pronunciation, and useful collocations/idioms for each highlighted word or phrase.

Transcript: The Hidden Stories of Black Jacobites

This is the Scottish English podcast, and you're listening or watching the second part of my special series celebrating Black History Month in the UK. Today we are exploring the **remarkable** and rarely told stories of black Jacobites. Remember to hit that subscribe button so you don't miss out on any upcoming episodes or if you're a big fan, consider supporting the show's creation by leaving a tip or becoming a member.

When we picture the Jacobite **uprisings** of the 17th and 18th century, we often imagine tartan clad Highland warriors fighting for Bonnie Prince Charlie, or bagpipes and clans, united in rebellion. But history is rarely so simple.

Hidden in the records are stories of black men and women connected to the cause. Their lives complicate the traditional image of Jacobitism. So let's break it down in today's episode.

Who were the Jacobites?

The Jacobites were supporters of the Stuart Royal family who had been deposed in favour of William of Orange and later the Hanoverian dynasty.

Their battles, often **romanticised** in poetry and song, **culminated** at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, where government forces crushed the last serious attempt at Stuart Restoration. But the Jacobite armies were more diverse than people think. Among the soldiers and

followers were not only Highland **clansmen**, but also lowland supporters, French allies, Irish volunteers and black men and women.

Enslaved lives in the Highlands.

During this period, Scotland's landed families, that means people who owned large pieces of land, were becoming wealthy through colonial connections. Some brought **enslaved** people back from the Caribbean or Africa to work in their households. These individuals found themselves **paradoxically** entangled in Jacobite communities.

For example, Scipio Kennedy was an **enslaved** African from Guinea, who was brought to Ayrshire in the early 1700s by the Kennedy family. Though he later gained his freedom and was given land, his presence reveals how Scotland's **aristocracy**, including Jacobite families, relied on the empire and its human exploitation.

When these households went to war for the Stuarts, their **enslaved** staff and servants sometimes came with them, willingly or unwillingly.

Black soldiers in the Jacobite cause.

Historians have found hints in military records: unnamed "blackamoors", as they were cruelly called back then, serving in Jacobite regiments.

We don't know their full stories. Did they fight voluntarily? Were they **coerced**? Did they hope that supporting the Jacobites might lead to freedom? We don't know the answers to these questions. What we do know is that **diversity** within Jacobitism challenges the image of it as a purely highland rebellion.

It shows how global currents of empire, slavery and migration reached into even the most Scottish of **uprisings**.

The aftermath.

After Culloden, Jacobite culture faced harsh **suppression**: tartan was banned, clan chiefs lost power, and Highland society changed forever. But for the hidden black participants, the **consequences** may have been even harsher. Without recognition, many disappeared into the shadows of history. It's only today through careful historical research that their

presence is being pieced back together. Each name we recover reminds us: Scotland's story cannot be told without **acknowledging** these forgotten voices.

The story of Black Jacobites reminds us that history is rarely as neat as we imagine it. Scotland's struggles for power and identity unfolded alongside the wider realities of empire and slavery.

Black people were not just distant victims of the empire. They were here in Scotland, part of its society, even in its rebellions.

Next episode takes us right into that uncomfortable reality, how Scotland profited from slavery and how the nation is **confronting** that **legacy** today. Thanks for listening or watching.

Remember to like, follow and subscribe, and I'll see you in the next episode of the Scottish English Podcast.

Vocabulary Table

Word/Phrase	Description	British English Pronunciation	Common Idioms/Collocations
remarkable	Worthy of attention; striking	/rɪˈmɑː.kə.bəl/	<i>remarkable achievement,</i> <i>remarkable story</i>
uprising	A rebellion or revolt against authority	/ˈʌp,raɪ.zɪŋ/	popular uprising, armed uprising
clansmen	Members of a clan, traditionally Scottish family groups	/ˈklænz.mən/	Highland clansmen, clan system

romanticised	Portrayed in an idealised or unrealistic way	/rəʊ'mæn.tɪ.saɪz d/	romanticised view, romanticised story
culminated	Reached a climax or point of highest development	/'kʌl.mɪ.neɪ.tɪd/	culminated in success, culminating event
enslavement	The act of making someone a slave	/ɪn'sleɪv.mənt/	slavery and enslavement
paradoxically	In a way that seems contradictory or opposed to common sense	/,pær.ə'dɒk.sɪ.kə l.i/	paradoxically true, paradoxically popular
aristocracy	The highest class in certain societies, often hereditary	/,æ.rɪ'stɒk.rə.sɪ/	landed aristocracy, aristocracy class
coerced	Forced or pressured into doing something	/kəʊ'ɜːst/	coerced into confessing, coerced agreement
diversity	The quality of being diverse or different	/daɪ'vɜː.sɪ.ti/	cultural diversity, diversity of opinion
suppression	The act of forcibly putting an end to something	/sə'pref.ən/	political suppression, cultural suppression
consequences	Results or effects of an action or condition	/'kɒn.sɪ.kwənsɪz /	serious consequences, unforeseen consequences

acknowledging	Accepting or admitting the truth or existence	/ək' nɒl.ɪdʒ.ɪŋ/	openly acknowledging, acknowledging receipt
legacy	Something handed down from the past	/'leg.ə.si/	cultural legacy, legacy of slavery
confront	To face up to and deal with a problem or difficult situation	/kən'frʌnt/	confront the truth, confront challenges