

This scene/skit by British playwright Chris Green was first performed outdoors in England by adult street actors. Then we brought it to the USA for the middle/high school production, "Paths Through the 1700s." Since then it has been used in classrooms as well as in performance. There is some humor at the end.

NOTE: Students love playing the part of the CROWD. When performing, I have my 50-voice choral group on risers as the *crowd* and stage (to an extent) their reactions in the skit. The other actors are down front.

Skit Notes: Jacobites are Coming!

Rebecca Locklear

Summary: The English town of Berwick-upon-Tweed is about to be attacked by the Scottish Jacobites. What happens when the military lock into the line of cannon fire? True story.

Grades: 6-12

Cast of Characters:	# of Lines
Narrator	7
Drummer	0
Newsboy	6
Crowd of people	3 ad lib
Sergeant	23
Soldier	7
Homeowner	3

Setting: 1745, Berwick-upon-Tweed, England.

Props: Drum, newsprint, firearms or swords for military men.

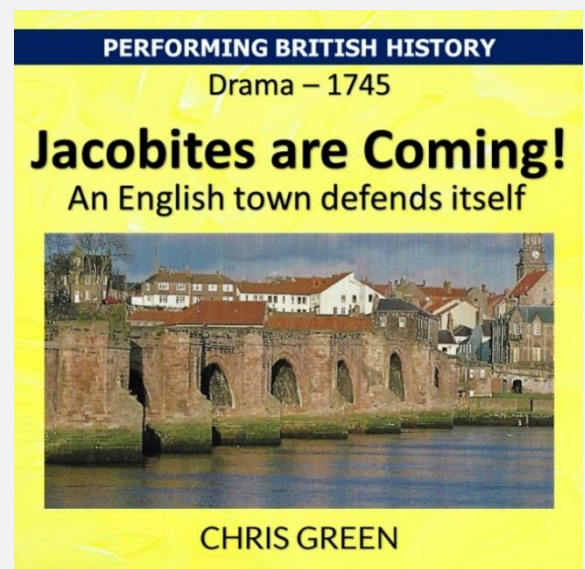
Performance Time: 5 minutes

Background Information: In 1688, King James II of England was forced into exile and soon,

CONTINUED

WHERE IS THIS SKIT USED?

- History classes
- Drama showcases
- Choral music with drama concerts
- Museums



Jacobites are Coming!

Chris Green

with staging cues and editing by Rebecca Locklear

NARRATOR: In 1688, King James II of England was forced into exile, and soon, other kings and queens occupied the throne. But many people still thought that King James II's son and grandson were the rightful heirs to the throne. So, in 1745, Scottish Highlanders rose in support of James II's grandson, known as "Bonnie Prince Charlie." Prince Charles was charming and brave and tried to win back the English throne with the aid of Scottish clans. Ah, here he is, about to attack an English town.

DRUMMER: (*frantic drumming*)

NEWSBOY: Disaster at Prestonpans! General Cope defeated. The Jacobites are marching on Berwick (BEAR-ick). The Jacobites!

CROWD: (*behind main actors and pointing at audience*) The Jacobites! The Jacobites marching on Berwick! (*ad lib. hysteria, then freeze*)

SERGEANT: (*to SOLDIER*) Prepare the defenses, soldier. No expense spared. Get those trees chopped down. Prime the muskets. Get the shot. Prepare the cannon. (*SOLDIER doesn't move*) Move! Move!

SOLDIER: Yes, sergeant. (*turns to go but comes back*) Uh....sergeant?

CONTINUED!

Extension: Involve students in Scottish history by having them create a visual of the people and events that led to the Jacobite revolts.

This is really fun!

CHRIS GREEN

Museum Curator, Historical Writer, Playwright

REBECCA LOCKLEAR

Educational Writer

All things history (plus music, Latin...)

www.rebeccalocklear.com

You are welcome to join my email list!