

## Joan Bracey and the Stuart era

- Joan Bracey was born around the year 1656. She was the daughter of John Phillips, a wealthy farmer in Nottinghamshire.
- When Joan was born, England was a republic – in other words, it had no king or queen. The last king, Charles I (from the Stuart family) had been executed in 1649 and his son, also called Charles, had escaped to France. However, the republic was not a success and the prince came home to be crowned King Charles II in 1661.
- The reign of Charles II is often known as the Restoration period, because it was when the monarchy had been restored.
- Charles II was nicknamed “the Merry Monarch” for his love of fun. Ordinary people also celebrated the start of a more peaceful era. Unfortunately, this meant crime went up, as some people felt they could do what they liked!



Joan Bracey



King Charles II



A highway robber

- Highwaymen, who robbed travellers at gunpoint, were especially daring, violent criminals, but they were often treated as heroes and celebrities. One of the most famous was Dick Turpin.
- There was no police force, but some volunteers acted as watchmen, often riding alongside coaches to guard against robbers.
- Punishments for criminals were harsh. Over fifty crimes, including burglary, poaching (hunting on someone else's land) and treason (trying to kill or harm the king or government), had the death penalty.
- People guilty of less serious crimes might be whipped, fined (ordered to pay money) or sent to prison. Some criminals were transported to America or Australia.



Convicts leaving England to be transported to America