

= Princess Louise , Duchess of Argyll =

Princess Louise , Duchess of Argyll , GCVO , GBE , RRC , GCStJ , VA , CI ( Louise Caroline Alberta ; 18 March 1848 ? 3 December 1939 ) , was the sixth child and fourth daughter of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert .

Her early life was spent moving among the various royal residences in the company of her family . When her father , the Prince Consort , died on 14 December 1861 , the court went into a period of intense mourning , to which Louise was unsympathetic . Louise was an able sculptor and artist , and several of her sculptures remain today . She was also a supporter of the feminist movement , corresponded with Josephine Butler , and visited Elizabeth Garrett . She held that " the subject of Domestic Economy lies at the root of the ? highest life of every true woman . "

Before her marriage , Louise served as an unofficial secretary to her mother , the Queen ( 1866 ? 1871 ) . The question of Louise 's marriage was discussed in the late 1860s . Suitors from the royal houses of Prussia and Denmark were suggested , but Victoria wanted new blood in the family and therefore suggested a high @-@ ranking member of the aristocracy . Despite opposition from members of the royal family , Louise fell in love with John , Marquess of Lorne , the heir to the Duke of Argyll , and Victoria consented to the marriage , which took place on 21 March 1871 . Despite a happy beginning , the two drifted apart , possibly because of their childlessness and the Queen 's constraints on their activities .

In 1878 , Lorne was appointed Governor General of Canada . Louise became viceregal consort , but her stay was unhappy as a result of homesickness and dislike of Ottawa . Following Victoria 's death in 1901 , Louise entered the social circle established by her brother , the new king , Edward VII . Louise 's marriage survived thanks to long periods of separation , but the couple reconciled in 1911 , and she was devastated by her husband 's death in 1914 . After the end of the First World War in 1918 , at the age of 70 , she began to retire from public life , undertaking few public duties outside Kensington Palace , where she died at age 91 .

= = Early life = =

Louise was born on 18 March 1848 at Buckingham Palace , London . She was the fourth daughter and sixth child of the reigning British monarch , Queen Victoria , and her husband Prince Albert of Saxe @-@ Coburg and Gotha . As the daughter of the sovereign , Louise was styled Her Royal Highness The Princess Louise from birth . Her birth coincided with revolutions which swept across Europe , prompting the Queen to remark that Louise would turn out to be " something peculiar " . The Queen 's labour with Louise was the first to be aided with chloroform .

Albert and Victoria chose the names Louisa Caroline Alberta . Louise was chosen to honour Albert 's mother . Though christened Louisa in Buckingham Palace 's private chapel by John Bird Sumner , the Archbishop of Canterbury , on 13 May 1848 , she was invariably known as Louise throughout her life . Her godparents were Duke Gustav of Mecklenburg @-@ Schwerin ( her paternal great @-@ great @-@ uncle , for whom Prince Albert stood proxy ) ; The Duchess of Saxe @-@ Meiningen ( for whom her great @-@ aunt Queen Adelaide stood proxy ) ; and The Hereditary Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg @-@ Strelitz ( her first cousin once @-@ removed , for whom the Hereditary Grand Duchess 's mother The Duchess of Cambridge stood proxy ) . During the ceremony , The Duchess of Gloucester , one of the few children of George III who was still alive , forgot where she was , and suddenly got up in the middle of the service and knelt at the Queen 's feet , much to the Queen 's horror .

Like her siblings , Louise was brought up with the strict programme of education devised by her father , Prince Albert , and his friend and confidant , Baron Stockmar . The young children were taught practical tasks , such as cooking , farming , household tasks and carpentry .

From her early years , Louise was a talented and intelligent child , and her artistic talents were quickly recognised . On his visit to Osborne House in 1863 , Hallam Tennyson , the son of the poet Alfred , Lord Tennyson , remarked that Louise could " draw beautifully " . Because of her royal rank , an artistic career was not considered . However , the Queen first allowed her to attend art school

under the tutelage of the sculptor Mary Thornycroft , and later ( 1863 ) allowed her to study at the National Art Training School , South Kensington . Louise also became an able dancer , and Victoria wrote , after a dance , that Louise " danced the sword dance with more verve and accuracy than any of her sisters " . Her wit and intelligence made her a favourite with her father , with her inquisitive nature earning her the nickname " Little Miss Why " from other members of the royal family .

= = Death of Prince Albert = =

Louise 's father , Prince Albert , died at Windsor on 14 December 1861 . The Queen was devastated , and ordered her household to move from Windsor to Osborne House on the Isle of Wight . The atmosphere of the royal court became gloomy and morbid in the wake of the Prince 's death , and entertainments became dry and dull . Louise quickly became dissatisfied with her mother 's prolonged mourning . For her seventeenth birthday in 1865 , Louise requested the ballroom to be opened for a debutante dance , the like of which had not been performed since Prince Albert 's death . Her request was refused , and her boredom with the mundane routine of travelling between the different royal residences at set times irritated her mother , who considered Louise to be indiscreet and argumentative .

The Queen comforted herself by rigidly continuing with Prince Albert 's plans for their children . Princess Alice was married to Prince Louis , the future Grand Duke of Hesse , at Osborne on 1 June 1862 . In 1863 , Edward , the Prince of Wales , married Princess Alexandra of Denmark . The Queen made it a tradition that the eldest unmarried daughter would become her unofficial secretary , a position which Louise filled in 1866 , despite the Queen 's concern that she was indiscreet .

Louise , however , proved to be good at the job : Victoria wrote shortly afterwards : " She is ( and who would some years ago have thought it ? ) a clever dear girl with a fine strong character , unselfish and affectionate . " However , when Louise fell in love with her brother Leopold 's tutor , the Reverend Robinson Duckworth ( 14 years her senior ) , between 1866 and 1870 , the Queen reacted by dismissing Duckworth in 1870 . He later became Canon of Westminster Abbey .

Louise was bored at court , and by fulfilling her duties , which were little more than minor secretarial tasks , such as writing letters on the Queen 's behalf ; dealing with political correspondence ; and providing the Queen with company , she had more responsibilities .

= = Marriage = =

= = = Suitors = = =

As a daughter of the Queen , Louise was a desirable bride ; more so as she is regarded as the Queen 's most beautiful daughter by both contemporary and modern biographers . However , she was accused by the press , without substantiation , of romantic affairs . This , coupled with her liberalism and feminism , prompted the Queen to find her a husband . The choice had to suit Victoria as well as Louise , and the Queen insisted that her daughter 's husband should live near her , a promise which had also been extracted from the husband of Helena , Louise 's sister . Various suitors were proposed by the leading royal houses of Europe : Princess Alexandra proposed her brother , the Crown Prince of Denmark , but the Queen was strongly opposed to another Danish marriage that could antagonise Prussia . Victoria , Louise 's eldest sister , proposed the tall and rich Prince Albert of Prussia , but Queen Victoria disapproved of another Prussian marriage that would have been unpopular in England . Prince Albert was also reluctant to settle in England as required . William , Prince of Orange was also considered a suitor , but because of his extravagant lifestyle in Paris , where he lived openly with a mistress , the Queen quickly vetoed the idea .

Louise viewed marriage to any prince as undesirable , and announced that she wished to marry John Campbell , Marquess of Lorne , heir to the Dukedom of Argyll . No such marriage , between a daughter of a Sovereign and a British subject , had been given official recognition since 1515 , when Charles Brandon , the first Duke of Suffolk , married Mary Tudor . Louise 's brother , the Prince of

Wales , was strongly opposed to a marriage with a non @-@ mediatized noble . Furthermore , Lorne 's father , George Campbell , the eighth Duke of Argyll , was an ardent supporter of William Ewart Gladstone , and the Prince of Wales was worried that he would drag the royal family into political disputes . Nevertheless , the opposition was crushed by the Queen , who wrote to the Prince of Wales in 1869 :

That which you object to [ that Louise should marry a subject ] I feel certain will be for Louise 's happiness and for the peace and quiet of the family ... Times have changed ; great foreign alliances are looked on as causes of trouble and anxiety , and are of no good . What could be more painful than the position in which our family were placed during the wars with Denmark , and between Prussia and Austria ? ... You may not be aware , as I am , with what dislike the marriages of Princesses of the Royal Family with small German Princes ( German beggars as they most insultingly were called ) ... As to position , I see no difficulty whatever ; Louise remains what she is , and her husband keeps his rank ... only being treated in the family as a relation when we are together ...

The Queen averred that Louise 's marriage to a subject would bring " new blood " into the family , while all European princes were related to each other . She was convinced that this would strengthen the royal family morally and physically .

= = = Engagement and wedding = = =

Louise became engaged to the Marquess of Lorne on 3 October 1870 . Lorne was invited to Balmoral Castle in Scotland , and accompanied Louise , the Lord Chancellor , Lord Hatherley and Queen Victoria 's lady @-@ in @-@ waiting , Jane , Marchioness of Ely on a drive . Later that day , Louise returned and announced to the Queen that Lorne had " spoken of his devotion " to Louise , and she accepted his proposal in the knowledge of the Queen 's approval . The Queen later gave Lady Ely a bracelet to mark the occasion .

The Queen found it difficult to let go of her daughter , confiding in her journal that she " felt painfully the thought of losing her " . The new breach in royal tradition caused surprise , especially in Germany , and Queen Victoria wrote to the Queen of Prussia that princes of small impoverished German houses were " very unpopular " in Britain and that Lord Lorne , a " person of distinction at home " with " an independent fortune " was " really no lower in rank than minor German Royalty " .

Victoria settled an annuity on Louise shortly before her marriage . The ceremony was conducted at St George 's Chapel at Windsor Castle on 21 March 1871 , and the crowd outside was so large that , for the first time , policemen had to form chain barriers to keep control . Louise wore a wedding veil of Honiton lace that she designed herself , and was escorted into the Chapel by her mother , and her two eldest brothers , the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh . On this occasion , the usually severe black of the Queen 's mourning dress was relieved by the crimson rubies and blues of the Garter star . Following the ceremony , the Queen kissed Louise , and Lorne ? now a member of the royal family , but still a subject ? kissed the Queen 's hand .

The couple then journeyed to Claremont in Surrey for the honeymoon , but the presence of attendants on the journey , and at meal times , made it impossible for them to talk privately . The short four @-@ day visit did not pass without an interruption from the Queen , who was curious about her daughter 's thoughts on married life . Among their wedding gifts was a maplewood desk from Queen Victoria , now at Inveraray Castle .

= = Viceregal Consort of Canada = =

= = = Inauspicious arrival = = =

In 1878 , British Prime Minister , Benjamin Disraeli , chose Lorne to be Canada 's new Governor General , and he was duly appointed by Queen Victoria . Louise thus became his Viceregal Consort . On 15 November 1878 , the couple left Liverpool and arrived for the inauguration at Halifax on 25

November .

Louise became the first royal to take up residence in Rideau Hall , officially the Queen 's royal residence in Ottawa . However , the hall was far from the splendour of British royal residences , and , as each viceregal couple decorated the hall with their own furnishings , and thus took them when they departed , the Lornes found the palace sparse in décor upon their arrival . Louise put her artistic talents to work and hung many of her watercolour and oil paintings around the hall , also installing her sculpted works . Though the news that a daughter of the Queen would be viceregal consort of Canada first saw a " thrill of joy burst upon the Dominion " , it being felt that the Princess would be a strong link between Canadians and their sovereign , the arrival of the new governor general and his wife was not initially welcomed by the Canadian press , which complained about the imposition of royalty on the country 's hitherto un @-@ regal society .

Relations with the press further deteriorated when Lorne 's private secretary , Francis de Winton , threw four journalists off the royal train . Although the Lornes had no knowledge of de Winton 's action , it was assumed by the press that they did , and they earned an early reputation for haughtiness . Louise was horrified by the negative press , and when she heard about reports of " a nation of flunkies " at the viceregal court , taking lessons in " the backward walk , " Louise declared that she " wouldn 't care if they came in blanket coats ! " . ( A reference to the ubiquitous capote , a coat made of blanket @-@ cloth , both durable and warm . The cultural significance of the blanket coat in genteel society , with reference to several early Governors @-@ General and their wives , can be found in " ' Very Picturesque and Very Canadian ' : The Blanket Coat and Anglo @-@ Canadian Identity in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century " by Eileen Stack of the McCord Museum of Canadian History . ) Eventually the worries of a rigid court at Rideau Hall and the " feeble undercurrent of criticism " turned out to be unfounded as the royal couple proved to be more relaxed than their predecessors .

= = = Canadian entertainments = = =

Louise 's first few months in Canada were tinged with sadness as her favourite sister , The Grand Duchess of Hesse and by Rhine , died on 14 December 1878 . Although homesick over that first Christmas , Louise soon grew accustomed to the winter climate . Sleighing and skating were two of her favourite pastimes . In Canada , as the monarch 's direct representative , Lorne always took precedence over his wife , so that at the Opening of the Parliament of Canada on 13 February 1879 , Louise was ranked no differently from others in attendance . She had to remain standing with the MPs , until Lorne asked them to be seated . In order for Lorne to meet every Canadian member of Parliament , he held bi @-@ weekly dinners for 50 people . However , some of the Canadian ladies responded negatively to the British party . One of her ladies @-@ in @-@ waiting reported that some had an " ' I 'm as good as you ' sort of manner when one begins a conversation . " Court entertainments were open ; anyone who could afford the clothing to attend functions was simply asked to sign the visitor 's book . Louise 's first state ball was given on 19 February 1879 , and she made a good impression on her guests when she ordered the silk cordon , separating the viceregal party from the guests , be removed . However , the ball was marred by various mishaps , including a drunken bandsman nearly starting a fire by pulling a curtain over a gas lamp . The open house practice was criticised by guests who complained about the low social status of other guests . One attendee was horrified to find the attendee 's grocer dancing in the same set .

Louise and Lorne founded the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts , and enjoyed visiting Quebec ( where they made their summer home ) , and Toronto . Louise served as patroness of the Ladies ' Educational Association , of the Woman 's Protective Immigration Society , of the Society of Decorative Arts and of the Art Association , all of Montreal . One of her works as a sculptor is the statue of her Royal mother Queen Victoria , which now stands in front of the Royal Victoria College , Montreal , now the Strathcona Music Building of McGill University . Lorne 's father , The Duke of Argyll , arrived with two of his daughters in June , and in the presence of the family , Louise caught a 28 @-@ pound ( almost 13 kg ) salmon . The women 's success at fishing prompted the Duke to remark that fishing in Canada required no skill .

= = = Sleigh accident = = =

Louise , Lorne , and two attendants , were hurt in a sleigh accident on 14 February 1880 . The winter was particularly severe , and the carriage in which they were traveling overturned , throwing the coachman and footman from the sleigh . The horses then panicked , and dragged the overturned carriage over more than 400 yards ( 370 m ) of ground . Louise was knocked unconscious when she hit her head on the iron bar supporting the roof , and Lorne was trapped underneath her , expecting " the sides of the carriage to give way at any moment " . Eventually , as they overtook the sleigh ahead , the horses calmed , and the occupant of that sleigh , Princess Louise 's aide @-@ de @-@ camp , ordered an empty carriage to convey the injured party back to Rideau Hall .

The doctors who attended Louise reported she was severely concussed and in shock , and that " it was a wonder her skull was not fractured " . Louise 's ear had been injured when her earring caught on the side of the sleigh , tearing her ear lobe in two . The press played down the story on instructions from Lorne 's private secretary , an act that was described by contemporaries as " stupid and ill advised " . For example , one New Zealand newspaper reported , " Excepting immediately after the blow , the Princess was perfectly sensible during the whole time ... " Knowledge of Louise 's true condition might have elicited sympathy from the Canadian people . As it was , one Member of Parliament wrote : " Except the cut in the lower part of the ear I think there was no injury done worth mentioning . " Therefore , when Louise cancelled her immediate engagements , people thought she was malingering . News of the accident was also played down in Britain , and in letters home to the anxious Queen Victoria .

She played a major role in the development of the nascent tourism industry of the colony of Bermuda , 770 miles South @-@ east of Nova Scotia . In 1883 , for reasons of her fragile health , she spent the winter in Bermuda , popularising a trend for wealthy North Americans to escape to Bermuda 's relatively mild climate during the winter months . Her visit brought such attention to Bermuda that a palatial hotel , which opened in 1885 , intended to cater to these new visitors , was named after her ; the Princess Hotel was built on the shore of Hamilton Harbour , in the parish of Pembroke .

= = = Continued interest in Canada = = =

After returning to Britain in 1883 , Louise continued to take an interest in Canada . During the North @-@ West Rebellion of 1885 she sent a certain Dr. Boyd with medical supplies and a large fund of money for distribution . Her express instructions were that assistance was to be rendered to friend and foe indiscriminately . To fulfill her wishes , Boyd accompanied the Militia Medical Staff , under Dr. Thomas Roddick to the sites of the Battle of Fish Creek and the Battle of Batoche to help give medical treatment to the wounded , including the Métis opposition .

In 1905 , the province of Alberta was named after Princess Louise Caroline Alberta . In the province , there is Lake Louise , and Mount Alberta is named in her honour .

= = Victoria 's last years = =

= = = Family conflict = = =

Louise returned to Britain , from Quebec , with her husband on 27 October 1883 , and landed at Liverpool . Queen Victoria had prepared apartments at Kensington Palace , and the couple took up official residence there . Louise retained those apartments until her death there 56 years later . Lorne resumed his political career , campaigning unsuccessfully for the Hampstead seat in 1885 . In 1896 , he won the South Manchester seat , entering parliament as a Liberal . Louise , unlike Lorne and his father , was in favour of Irish Home Rule , and disappointed when he defected from

Gladstonian Liberalism to the Liberal Unionists . Relations between Louise and Lorne were strained , and , despite the Queen 's attempts to keep them under one roof , they often went their separate ways . Even when he accompanied Louise , he was not always received with favour at court , and the Prince of Wales did not take to him . Out of all the royal family , Lorne was the only one to be identified closely with a political party , having been a Gladstonian liberal in the House of Commons .

Louise 's relationship with the two sisters closest to the Queen , Beatrice and Helena , was strained at best . Beatrice had married the tall and handsome Prince Henry of Battenberg in a love match in 1885 , and they had four children . Louise , who had a jealous nature , had grown accustomed to treating Beatrice with pity on account of the Queen 's constant need for her . Beatrice 's biographer , Matthew Dennison , claims that in contrast to Beatrice , Louise remained strikingly good looking throughout her forties . Louise and her husband were no longer close , and rumours spread about Lorne 's alleged homosexuality . Thus , Beatrice was enjoying a satisfying sexual relationship with her popular husband , which Louise was not . Louise may have considered Prince Henry a more appropriate husband for herself . Certainly , following Prince Henry 's death in 1896 , Louise wrote that : " he [ Henry ] was almost the greatest friend I had ? I , too , miss him more than I can say " . In addition , Louise attempted to champion her late brother @-@ in @-@ law by announcing that she was his confidante and that Beatrice , a mere cipher , meant nothing to him .

= = = Rumours regarding Louise = = =

Further rumours spread that Louise was having an affair with Arthur Bigge , later Lord Stamfordham , the Queen 's assistant private secretary . Beatrice mentioned the rumours to the Queen 's physician , calling it a " scandal " , and Prince Henry claimed to have seen Bigge drinking to Louise 's health at dinner . Louise denied the rumour , claiming that it was started by Beatrice and Helena to undermine her position at court . However , on Henry 's death , relations between the sisters sporadically improved , and it was Louise , rather than the Queen , who was the first to arrive at Cimiez to be with the widowed Beatrice . Nevertheless , Louise 's jealousy did not evaporate completely . James Reid , the Queen 's physician , wrote to his wife a few years later : " Louise is as usual much down on her sisters . Hope she won 't stay long or she will do mischief ! "

Rumours of affairs did not surround only Bigge . In 1890 , the sculptor Joseph Edgar Boehm died in Louise 's presence at his studio in London , leading to rumours that the two were having an affair . Boehm 's assistant , Alfred Gilbert , who played a central role in comforting Louise after Boehm 's death , and supervised the destruction of Boehm 's private papers , was rapidly promoted as a royal sculptor . Louise was also romantically linked to fellow artist Edwin Lutyens ; her equerry , Colonel William Probert ; and an unnamed music master . However , Jehanne Wake , Louise 's biographer , argues that there is no substantial evidence to suggest that Louise had sexual relationships with anyone other than her husband .

During Victoria 's last years , Louise carried out a range of public duties , such as opening public buildings , laying foundation stones , and officiating at special programmes . Louise , like her eldest sister Victoria , was more liberally minded , and supported the suffragist movement , completely contrary to the Queen 's views . Louise privately visited Britain 's first female doctor , Elizabeth Garrett . Queen Victoria deplored the idea of women joining professions , especially the medical profession , and described the training of female doctors as a " repulsive subject " .

= = = Louise as unconventional royal = = =

Louise was determined to be seen as an ordinary person and not as a member of the court . When travelling abroad , she often used the alias " Mrs Campbell " . Louise was known for her charity towards servants . On one occasion , the butler approached her and requested permission to dismiss the second footman , who was late getting out of bed . When she advised that the footman be given an alarm clock , the butler informed her that he already had one . She then went so far as to suggest a bed that would throw him out at a specified time , but she was told this was not feasible

. Finally , she suggested that he might be ill , and when checked , he was found to be suffering from tuberculosis . The footman was therefore sent to New Zealand to recover .

On another occasion , when she visited Bermuda , she was invited to a reception and chose to walk rather than be driven . She became thirsty along the way and stopped at a house , where she asked a black woman named Mrs McCarthy for a glass of water . Owing to the scarcity of water , the woman had to go some distance to obtain it , but was reluctant because she had to finish her ironing . When Louise offered to continue the ironing , the woman refused , adding that she was in a great hurry to finish so that she could go and see Princess Louise . Realising that she had not been recognised , Louise enquired whether McCarthy would recognise her again . When the woman said that she would have thought so , but was admittedly unsure , Louise replied : " Well take a good look at me now , so you can be sure to know me tomorrow at St. Georges . " The Princess clung to her privacy , and enjoyed not being recognised .

Louise and her sisters had another disagreement after the death of the Queen 's close friend , Jane Spencer , Baroness Churchill . Determined not to put her mother through more misery , Louise wanted the news to be broken to the Queen gradually . When this was not done , Louise voiced her sharp criticism of Helena and Beatrice . One month later , on 22 January 1901 , Queen Victoria died at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight . In her will , the Queen bequeathed Kent House , on the Osborne Estate , to Louise as a country residence , and gave Osborne Cottage to Louise 's youngest sister , Beatrice . Louise and Beatrice were now neighbours both at Kensington Palace and Osborne .

= = Later life = =

= = = Edwardian period = = =

Upon Queen Victoria 's death , Louise entered the social circle of her brother , the new King Edward VII , with whom she had much in common , including smoking . She had an obsession with physical fitness , and if she was sneered at for this , she would retort by saying : " Never mind , I 'll outlive you all . " Meanwhile , Louise 's husband , 9th Duke of Argyll since 1900 , took his seat in the House of Lords . The Colonial Secretary , Joseph Chamberlain , offered him the office of Governor @-@ General of Australia that year , but the offer was declined . Louise continued her sculpture , and in 1902 , designed a memorial to the colonial soldiers who died in the Boer War . In the same year , she began a nude study on a married woman suggested by the English painter Sir William Blake Richmond .

Louise spent much of her time at Kent House , and she frequently visited Scotland with her husband . Financial pressures did not disappear when Lorne became Duke , and Louise avoided inviting the King to Inveraray , Argyll 's ancestral home , because the couple were economising . When Queen Victoria had visited the house before Lorne became Duke of Argyll , there were seventy servants and seventy @-@ four dogs . By the time of Edward VII 's accession , there were four servants and two dogs .

The Duke of Argyll 's health continued to deteriorate . He became increasingly senile , and Louise nursed him devotedly from 1911 . In these years Louise and her husband were closer than they had been before . In spring 1914 Louise stayed at Kensington Palace while her husband remained on the Isle of Wight .

He developed bronchial problems followed by double pneumonia . Louise was summoned on 28 April 1914 , and he died on 2 May . Following his death , Louise had a nervous breakdown and suffered from intense loneliness , writing to a friend shortly afterwards : " My loneliness without the Duke is quite terrible . I wonder what he does now ! "

= = = Last years = = =

Louise spent her last years at Kensington Palace , occupying rooms next to her sister Princess

Beatrice . She made occasional public appearances with the royal family , such as at the Cenotaph at Whitehall on 11 November 1925 . However , her health deteriorated . In 1935 , she greeted her nephew , King George V , and his wife , Queen Mary , at Kensington Town Hall during their Silver Jubilee celebrations , and was made an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Kensington . Her last public appearance occurred in 1937 , at the Home Arts and Industries Exhibition . Between these occasions , her great nephew , King Edward VIII , abdicated on 11 December 1936 . In December 1936 , Louise wrote to the British prime minister , Stanley Baldwin , sympathising with him about the crisis .

Following the accession of Edward 's brother King George VI , she became too ill to move around , and was confined to Kensington Palace , affectionately called the " Auntie Palace " by Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret . She developed neuritis in her arm , inflammation of the nerves between the ribs , fainting fits , and sciatica . Louise occupied herself by drafting prayers , one of which was sent to Neville Chamberlain , reading " Guide our Ministers of State and all who are in authority over us ... "

= = Death = =

She died at Kensington Palace on the morning of 3 December 1939 at the age of 91 years , 8 months and 15 days , the same age to the day as her younger brother Prince Arthur , wearing the wedding veil she had worn almost 70 years earlier . Following a simple funeral , owing to the war , her remains were cremated at Golders Green Crematorium on 8 December . Her ashes were quietly placed in the Royal Crypt at St. George 's Chapel on 12 December , with many members of the Royal and Argyll families present . Her ashes were moved to the Royal Burial Ground , Frogmore near Windsor , on 13 March 1940 . Louise 's will stated that if she died in Scotland she should be buried at the Campbell mausoleum in Kilmun next to her husband ; if in England , at Frogmore near her parents . Her coffin was borne by eight NCOs of her own regiment , The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders .

= = Legacy = =

Louise bestowed her name on four Canadian regiments : The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada ( Princess Louise 's ) in Hamilton , Ontario ; the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards in Ottawa , Ontario ( inactive since 1965 ) ; the 8th Canadian Hussars ( Princess Louise 's ) in Moncton , New Brunswick ; and the Princess Louise Fusiliers in Halifax , Nova Scotia .

Queen Elizabeth II later recalled that Louise and her sister Beatrice would talk until they stunned their audience with their output of words .

The province of Alberta in Canada is named after her . Although the name " Louise " was originally planned , the Princess wished to honour her dead father , so her last name was chosen . Lake Louise in Alberta is also named after her , as is Mount Alberta . Although her time in Canada was not always happy , she liked the Canadian people and retained close links with her Canadian regiments . Back at home , she gained a reputation for paying unscheduled visits to hospitals , especially during her later years . Her relationship with her family was generally close . Although at times she bickered with the Queen , and her sisters Helena and Beatrice , the relations did not remain strained for long . She retained a lifelong correspondence with her brother , Prince Arthur , and was one of King Edward VII 's favourite sisters . Of all her siblings , she was closest to Prince Leopold , later Duke of Albany , and she was devastated by his death in 1884 .

Among the younger generations of the family , Louise 's favourite relatives were the Duke and Duchess of Kent . At the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1937 , Louise lent the Duchess the train that she designed and wore for the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in 1902 .

A war hospital in Erskine , Scotland , is named after Louise . It took her name as she was the first patron of the unit . It was originally called Princess Louise Scottish Hospital for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers . The name changed over the years to Erskine Hospital and then just Erskine . The charity



is close to its centenary year and has grown to become the biggest ex @-@ service establishment in the country .

= = = Art Practice = = =

Louise had artistic training from childhood , first with Susan Durant from 1864 , then Mary Thornycroft from 1867 , and further lessons with Edgar Boehm . She also then attended National Art Training School , or NATS , which marks the first time a member of the British royal family attended a public education institution . Like many women artists in the nineteenth century , Louise had to make do with training intended for industrial designers and art teachers rather than fine artists . There was no training from the nude model , as there was for male art students .

Louise held an account with the London artists ' colourman Charles Roberson & Co. from April 1872 until February 1931 , buying materials for oil and water colour painting including numerous sketchbooks .

Louise was the most artistically talented of Queen Victoria 's daughters . As well as being an able actress , pianist and dancer , she was a prolific artist and sculptor . When Louise sculpted a statue of the Queen , portraying her in Coronation robes , the press claimed that her tutor , Sir Edgar Boehm , was the true creator of the work . The claim was denied by Louise 's friends , who asserted her effort and independence . The work was intended to be exhibited in 1887 , but production was delayed until 1893 . A memorial to her brother @-@ in @-@ law , Prince Henry of Battenberg , and a memorial to the Colonial soldiers who fell during the Boer War , reside at Whippingham Church on the Isle of Wight , and another statue of Queen Victoria remains at McGill University in Montreal .

= = = = Selected Works of Art = = = =

= = = = = Works on Paper = = = = =

Queen Victoria , 1881 . Pencil on paper , 36 @.@ 9 x 24 @.@ 0 cm ( sheet of paper ) . Royal Collection Trust , RCIN 980422 .

= = = = = Sculpture = = = = =

Princess Beatrice , 1864 . Marble , 55 @.@ 0 x 29 @.@ 0 x 23 @.@ 0 cm . Royal Collection Trust , RCIN 53351 .

Prince Arthur , 1869 . Marble , 61 @.@ 5 x 33 @.@ 0 x 26 @.@ 0 cm . Royal Collection Trust , RCIN 31662 .

Prince Leopold , 1869 . Marble , 43 @.@ 4 x 29 @.@ 0 x 19 @.@ 0 cm . Royal Collection Trust , RCIN 34511 .

Queen Victoria , 1887 . Bronze , 61 @.@ 5 x 46 x 41 cm . Leeds Museums and Galleries , Temple Newsam House .

Self Portrait , n.d. Terracotta , 63 @.@ 5 cm . National Portrait Gallery , London .

= = = Titles and styles = = =

18 March 1848 ? 21 March 1871 : Her Royal Highness The Princess Louise

21 March 1871 ? 24 April 1900 : Her Royal Highness The Princess Louise , Marchioness of Lorne

24 April 1900 ? 3 December 1939 : Her Royal Highness The Princess Louise , Duchess of Argyll

= = = Honours = = =

21 January 1865 : Lady of the Royal Order of Victoria and Albert ( first class )

1 January 1878 : Companion of the Order of the Crown of India

7 August 1885 : Member of the Royal Red Cross  
10 February 1904 : Royal Family Order of King Edward VII ( second class )  
3 June 1911 : Royal Family Order of King George V ( second class )  
3 June 1918 : Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire  
12 June 1927 : Dame Grand Cross of the Venerable Order of St John  
11 May 1937 : Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order

===== Honorary military appointments =====

3 July 1911 : Honorary Colonel , 5th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards ( which became 4th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards in 1936 )  
22 June 1914 : Colonel @-@ in @-@ Chief , the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders ( Princess Louise 's )  
15 April 1930 : Colonel @-@ in @-@ Chief , the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada ( Princess Louise 's )  
14 August 1936 : Colonel @-@ in @-@ Chief , the Princess Louise Fusiliers

===== Honorary roles =====

President of the Women 's Education Union from 1871 .  
Patron of the Girls ' Day School Trust , 1872 ? 1939  
Patron of the Ladies Lifeboat Guild , Royal National Lifeboat Institution , 1923 @-@ 39

===== Arms =====

In 1858 , Louise and the three younger of her sisters were granted use of the royal arms , with an inescutcheon of the shield of Saxony and differenced by a label of three points argent . On Louise 's arms , the outer points bore cantons gules , and the centre a rose gules . In 1917 , the inescutcheon was dropped by royal warrant from George V.

===== Ancestry =====