

= Prince William , Duke of Gloucester =

Prince William , Duke of Gloucester ( 24 July 1689 ? 30 July 1700 ) , was the son of Princess Anne , later Queen of England , Ireland and Scotland from 1702 , and her husband , Prince George , Duke of Cumberland . He was their only child to survive infancy . Styled Duke of Gloucester , he was viewed by contemporaries as a Protestant champion because his birth seemed to cement the Protestant succession established in the " Glorious Revolution " that had deposed his Catholic grandfather James II the previous year .

Gloucester 's mother was estranged from her brother @-@ in @-@ law and cousin , William III , and her sister , Mary II , but supported links between them and her son . He grew close to his uncle William , who created him a Knight of the Garter , and his aunt Mary , who frequently sent him presents . At his nursery in Campden House , Kensington , he befriended his Welsh body @-@ servant , Jenkin Lewis , whose memoir of the Duke is an important source for historians , and operated his own miniature army , called the " Horse Guards " , which eventually comprised 90 boys .

Gloucester 's precarious health was a constant source of worry to his mother . His death , in 1700 at the age of eleven , precipitated a succession crisis as his mother was the only individual remaining in the Protestant line of succession established by the Bill of Rights 1689 . The English Parliament did not want the throne to revert to a Catholic , and so passed the Act of Settlement 1701 , which settled the throne of England on Electress Sophia of Hanover , a cousin of King James II , and her Protestant heirs .

= = Birth and health = =

In late 1688 , in what became known as the " Glorious Revolution " , the Roman Catholic King James of England , Scotland and Ireland was deposed by his Protestant nephew and son @-@ in @-@ law , Dutch stadtholder William Henry of Orange . William and his wife , James 's elder daughter Mary , were recognised by the English and Scottish parliaments as king and queen . As they had no children , Mary 's younger sister , Anne , was designated their heiress presumptive in England and Scotland . The accession of William and Mary and the succession through Anne were enshrined in the Bill of Rights 1689 .

Anne was married to Prince George of Denmark and Norway , and in their six years of marriage Anne had been pregnant six times , but none of her children had survived . At the end of her seventh pregnancy , at 5 a.m. on 24 July 1689 , she was delivered of a son in Hampton Court Palace . As it was usual for the births of potential heirs to the throne to be attended by several witnesses , the King and Queen and " most of the persons of quality about the court " were present . Three days later , the newborn baby was baptised William Henry after his uncle King William by Henry Compton , Bishop of London . The King , who was one of the godparents along with the Marchioness of Halifax and the Lord Chamberlain , Lord Dorset , declared him Duke of Gloucester , although the peerage was never formally created . Gloucester was second in line to the throne after his mother , and because his birth secured the Protestant succession , he was the hope of the revolution 's supporters . The ode The Noise of Foreign Wars , attributed to Henry Purcell , was written in celebration of the birth . Other congratulatory odes , such as Purcell 's last royal ode Who Can From Joy Refrain ? and John Blow 's The Duke of Gloucester 's March and A Song upon the Duke of Gloucester , were to follow on his birthdays in later years . However , supporters of James , the Jacobites , spoke of Gloucester as " a sickly and doomed usurper " .

Despite being described as a " brave livelylike [ sic ] boy " , Gloucester became ill with convulsions when he was three weeks old , so his mother moved him into Craven House , Kensington , hoping that the air from the surrounding gravel pits would have a beneficial effect on his health . His convulsions were possibly symptomatic of meningitis , likely contracted at birth and which resulted in hydrocephalus . As was usual among royalty , Gloucester was placed in the care of a governess , Lady Fitzhardinge , and was suckled by a wet nurse , Mrs. Pack , rather than his mother . As part of his treatment , Gloucester was driven outside every day in a small open carriage , pulled by

Shetland ponies , to maximise his exposure to the air of the gravel pits . The effectiveness of Gloucester 's treatment having exceeded their expectations , Princess Anne and Prince George acquired a permanent residence in the area , Campden House , a Jacobean mansion , in 1690 . It was here that Gloucester befriended Welsh body @-@ servant Jenkin Lewis , whose memoir of his master is an important source for historians .

Throughout his life , Gloucester suffered from a recurrent " ague " , which was treated with regular doses of Jesuit 's bark ( an early form of quinine ) by his physician , John Radcliffe . Gloucester disliked the treatment intensely , and usually vomited after being given it . Possibly as a result of hydrocephalus , he had an enlarged head , which his surgeons pierced intermittently to draw off fluid . He could not walk properly , and was apt to stumble . Nearing the age of five , Gloucester refused to climb stairs without two attendants to hold him , which Lewis blamed on indulgent nurses who over @-@ protected the boy . His father birched him until he agreed to walk by himself . Corporal punishment was usual at the time , and such treatment would not have been considered harsh .

= = Education = =

Gloucester 's language acquisition was delayed : he did not speak correctly until the age of three , and consequently the commencement of his education was postponed by a year . The Reverend Samuel Pratt , a Cambridge graduate , was appointed the Duke 's tutor in 1693 . Lessons concentrated on geography , mathematics , Latin , and French . Pratt was an enemy of Jenkin Lewis , and they frequently disagreed over how Gloucester should be educated . Lewis remained Gloucester 's favourite attendant because , unlike Pratt , he was knowledgeable in military matters and could therefore help him with his " Horse Guards " , a miniature army consisting of local children . Over a couple of years from 1693 , the size of the army grew from 22 to over 90 boys .

Princess Anne had fallen out with her sister and brother @-@ in @-@ law , William and Mary , and reluctantly agreed to the advice of her friend , the Countess of Marlborough , that Gloucester should visit his aunt and uncle regularly to ensure their continued goodwill towards him . In an attempt to heal the rift , Anne invited the King and Queen to see Gloucester drill the " Horse Guards " . After watching the boys ' display at Kensington Palace , the King praised them , and made a return visit to Campden House the following day . Gloucester grew closer to his aunt and uncle : the Queen bought him presents from his favourite toy shop regularly . Her death in 1694 led to a superficial reconciliation between Anne and William , which occasioned a move to St James 's Palace , London . Gloucester having tired of him , Lewis only attended St James 's every two months .

On his seventh birthday , Gloucester attended a ceremony at St George 's Chapel , Windsor Castle , to install him as a knight of the Order of the Garter , an honour the King had given him six months before . Gloucester became ill during the celebratory banquet afterwards and left early , but after his recovery went deer hunting in Windsor Great Park , where he was blooded by Samuel Masham , his father 's page . Princess Anne wrote to the Countess of Marlborough , " My boy continues yet very well , and looks better , I think , than ever he did in his life ; I mean more healthy , for though I love him very well , I can 't brag of his beauty . "

During the trial of Sir John Fenwick , who was implicated in a plot to assassinate King William , Gloucester signed a letter to the King promising his loyalty . " I , your Majesty 's most dutiful subject , " the letter read , " had rather lose my life in your Majesty 's cause than in any man 's else , and I hope it will not be long ere you conquer France . " Added to the letter was a declaration by the boys in Gloucester 's army : " We , your Majesty 's subjects , will stand by you while we have a drop of blood . "

In 1697 , Parliament granted King William £ 50 @,@ 000 to establish a household for the Duke of Gloucester , though the King only permitted the release of £ 15 @,@ 000 , keeping the difference for himself . The establishment of Gloucester 's own household in early 1698 revived the feud between Anne and William . William was determined to limit Anne 's involvement in the household , and therefore appointed , against her wishes , the low church Gilbert Burnet , Bishop of Salisbury , as Gloucester 's preceptor . Anne was high church , and Burnet , knowing she was unhappy , attempted to decline the appointment , but the King insisted he accept it . Anne 's anger was only

placated by an assurance from King William that she could choose all the lower servants of the household . The Earl of Marlborough , a friend of Anne 's , was appointed Gloucester 's governor , after the Duke of Shrewsbury declined the office on the grounds of ill health . Shortly before the King sailed for the Netherlands , he received Anne 's choices from Marlborough but he refused to confirm them . His favourite , the Earl of Albemarle , eventually convinced him to agree to Anne 's appointments , and the King 's acceptance was sent from the Netherlands in September 1698 . The Marlboroughs ' twelve @-@ year @-@ old son , Lord Churchill , was appointed Gloucester 's Master of the Horse , and became a friend and playmate . Abigail Hill , a kinswoman of the Countess of Marlborough , was appointed his laundress , and Abigail 's brother , Jack Hill , was made one of Gloucester 's gentlemen of the bedchamber .

Burnet lectured Gloucester for hours at a time on subjects such as the feudal constitutions of Europe and law before the time of Christianity . Burnet also encouraged Gloucester to memorise facts and dates by heart . Government ministers inspected Gloucester 's academic progress every four months , finding themselves " amazed " by his " wonderful memory and good judgement " . His childhood troop was disbanded , and King William made him the honorary commander of a real regiment of Dutch footguards . In 1699 , he attended the trials in the House of Lords of Lord Mohun and Lord Warwick , who were accused of murder . Mohun was acquitted ; Warwick was found guilty of manslaughter but escaped punishment by pleading privilege of peerage .

= = Death = =

As he neared his eleventh birthday , Gloucester was assigned Mary 's old apartments in Kensington Palace . At his birthday party at Windsor , on 24 July 1700 , he complained of a sudden fatigue , but was initially thought to have overheated himself while dancing . By nightfall , he was suffering from a sore throat and chills , followed by a severe headache and a high fever the next day . A physician , Hannes , did not arrive until 27 July . Gloucester was immediately bled , but his condition continued to deteriorate . Over the next day , he developed a rash and suffered a bout of diarrhoea . A second physician , Gibbons , arrived early on 28 July , followed by Radcliffe that evening .

The physicians could not agree on a diagnosis . Radcliffe thought he had scarlet fever , while others thought it was smallpox . They administered " cordial powders and cordial juleps " . Gloucester was bled , to which Radcliffe strongly objected . He told his colleagues , " you have destroyed him and you may finish him " . He prescribed blistering , which was no more effective . In great pain , Gloucester passed the evening of 28 July " in great sighings and dejections of spirits ... towards morning , he complained very much of his blisters . " Anne , who had spent an entire day and night by her son 's bedside , now became so distressed that she fainted . However , by midday on 29 July , Gloucester was breathing more easily and his headache had diminished , leading to hopes that he would recover . The improvement was fleeting , and that evening , he was " taken with a convulsing sort of breathing , a defect in swallowing and a total deprivation of all sense " . Prince William died close to 1 a.m. on 30 July 1700 , with his parents beside him . In the end , the physicians decided the cause of death was " a malignant fever " . An autopsy revealed severe swelling of the lymph nodes in the neck and an abnormal amount of fluid in the ventricles of his brain : " four and a half ounces of a limpid humour were taken out . " A modern diagnosis is that Gloucester died of acute bacterial pharyngitis , with associated pneumonia . Had he lived , though , it is almost certain the prince would have succumbed to complications of his hydrocephalus .

King William , who was in the Netherlands , wrote to Marlborough , " It is so great a loss to me as well as to all England , that it pierces my heart . " Anne was prostrate with grief , taking to her chamber . In the evenings , she was carried into the garden " to divert her melancholy thoughts " . Gloucester 's body was moved from Windsor to Westminster on the night of 1 August , and he lay in state in the Palace of Westminster before being entombed in the Royal Vault of the Henry VII Chapel in Westminster Abbey on 9 August . As was usual for royalty in mourning , his parents did not attend the funeral service , instead remaining in seclusion at Windsor .

In an allusion to Prince William 's death , Tory politician William Shippen wrote :

So by the course of the revolving spheres ,

When ere a new @-@ discovered star appears ,  
Astronomers , with pleasure and amaze ,  
Upon the infant luminary gaze .  
They find their heaven 's enlarged , and wait from thence  
Some blest , some more than common influence ,  
But suddenly , alas ! The fleeting light ,  
Retiring , leaves their hopes involv 'd in endless night .

Gloucester 's death destabilised the succession , as his mother was the only person remaining in the Protestant line to the throne established by the Bill of Rights 1689 . Although Anne had ten other pregnancies after the birth of Gloucester , all her subsequent children died , either in the womb or immediately after birth . The English parliament did not want the throne to revert to a Catholic , so it passed the Act of Settlement 1701 , which settled the throne of England on a cousin of King James , Sophia , Electress of Hanover , and her Protestant heirs . Anne succeeded King William in 1702 , and reigned until her death on 1 August 1714 . Sophia predeceased her by a few weeks , and so Sophia 's son George ascended the throne as the first British monarch of the House of Hanover .

= = Titles , styles , honours and arms = =

William was styled as : His Royal Highness Prince William , Duke of Gloucester .

= = = Honours = = =

KG : Knight of the Garter , 6 January 1696

= = = Arms = = =

Gloucester bore the royal arms , differenced by an inescutcheon of the Danish coat of arms and a label of three points Argent , the centre point bearing a cross Gules .

= = Ancestry = =